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Entered

**THE COMPLETE NEWGATE
CALENDAR**

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THE COMPLETE NEWGATE CALENDAR

BEING

CAPTAIN CHARLES JOHNSON'S *General History of the Lives and Adventures of the Most Famous Highwaymen, Murderers, Street-Robbers and Account of the Voyages and Plunders of the Most Notorious Pyrates*, 1734; CAPTAIN ALEXANDER SMITH'S *Compleat History of the Lives and Robberies of the Most Notorious Highwaymen, Foot-Pads, Shop-Lifts and Cheats*, 1719; *The Tyburn Chronicle*, 1768; *The Malefactors' Register*, 1796; GEORGE BORROW'S *Celebrated Trials*, 1825; *The Newgate Calendar*, by ANDREW KNAPP AND WILLIAM BALDWIN, 1826; CAMDEN PELHAM'S *Chronicles of Crime*, 1841; etc.

COLLATED AND EDITED WITH AN APPENDIX
BY
G. T. CROOK

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THE COMPLETE NEWGATE CALENDAR

- WILLIAM DUNCAN

*Convicted for the Murder of his Master, William Chivers, Esq.,
and transported for Life, March, 1807*

WILLIAM DUNCAN was employed in the service of William Chivers, Esq., as gardener, at Clapham Common. On the morning of the day of the murder, after breakfast, the niece of Mr Chivers, who resided with him, went in his carriage to take an airing. Mr Chivers, who was between seventy and eighty years of age, went into his garden to take a walk, as was his daily custom, inspecting the gardener at his work, and conversing with him. About half-past eleven o'clock the gardener ran into the house from the garden, in great agitation and terror, exclaiming to the servants : " Lord, what have I done ! I have struck my master, and he has fallen " ; and immediately left the house, without giving any explanation, and made for the town of Clapham. The footman went into the garden to discover what had happened, when he found his master on the ground, apparently lifeless, and his face a most shocking spectacle. It appeared that the gardener had struck his master with a spade that he was working with, the end of which entered the lower part of his nose, broke both his jaw-bones, and penetrated nearly to a line with his ears, so that his head was almost separated. The gardener had inflicted two deep wounds, one being about eight inches in length and three inches and a half in breadth. Duncan was soon after apprehended, and the magistrates committed him to Horsemonger Lane Prison. The cause of the shocking act was a dispute between him and his master respecting the pruning of a vine.

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The jury, after having conferred for a considerable time, found the prisoner guilty of murder ; and he was accordingly sentenced to be executed on the Monday following, and to be anatomised.

The prisoner, during the whole of the time, conducted himself with great composure. He was a man of respectable appearance.

The Privy Council, however, did not, it appears, conceive that he was guilty of wilful and premeditated murder, but, on the contrary, admitted an immediate provocation on the part of the unfortunate old gentleman. They therefore represented him as a subject for Royal clemency, in consequence whereof he was twice respite, and then ordered to be transported for the term of his natural life.

GEORGE ALLEN

An Epileptic, who was executed at Stafford, 30th of March, 1807, for the Murder of his Three Children

INSANITY probably caused the horrid deed to be committed which we are now going to relate. It appeared in evidence on the trial that George Allen had previously thereto been subject to epileptic fits, but that on the Sunday preceding the day whereon he committed the murder he was considerably better.

At eight o'clock on the evening of the 12th of January, 1807, he retired to rest, and when his wife followed him, in the course of an hour, she found him sitting upright in bed, smoking his pipe, which was his usual custom. In another bed, in the same room, lay three of his infant children asleep, the eldest boy, about ten years old, the second a girl about six, and another boy about three. When his wife got into bed, with an infant at her breast, he asked her what other man she had in the house with her. To which she replied that no man had been there but himself. He insisted to the contrary, and his wife continued to assert her innocence. He then jumped out

GEORGE ALLEN

of bed and went downstairs, and she, from an impulse of fear, followed him. She met him on the stairs and asked him what he had been doing in such a hurry. In answer he ordered her to get upstairs again. He then went to the bed where his children were and turned down the clothes. On her endeavouring to hold him he told her to let him alone, or he would serve her with the same sauce, and immediately attempted to cut her throat, in which he partly succeeded, and also wounded her right breast; but a handkerchief she wore about her head and neck prevented the wound from being fatal. She then extricated herself (having the babe in her arms all the time, which she preserved un-hurt), and jumped, or rather fell, downstairs. Before she had well got up, one of the children (the girl) fell at her feet, with her head almost cut off, which he had murdered and thrown after her. The woman opened the door and screamed out that her husband was cutting off their children's heads. A neighbour soon came to her assistance, and when a light was procured the monster was found standing in the middle of the house-place with a razor in his hand. When asked what he had been doing, he replied coolly: "Nothing yet: I have only killed three of them!" On their going upstairs a most dreadful spectacle presented itself: the head of one of the boys was very nearly severed from his body, and the bellies of both were partly cut and partly ripped open, and the bowels torn completely out and thrown on the floor. Allen made no attempt to escape, and was taken without resistance. He said that it was his intention to have murdered his wife and all her children, and then to have put an end to himself. He professed his intention also to have murdered an old woman who lay bedridden in the same house. An inquest was held on the bodies of the three children, before Mr Hand, coroner of Uttoxeter, when he confessed his guilt, but without expressing any contrition. In answer to other interrogations he promised to confess something that had lain heavy on his mind; and Mr Hand, supposing it might relate to a crime he had heretofore committed, caused him to be examined in the

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presence of other gentlemen, when he told an incoherent story of a ghost, in the shape of a horse, having, about four years ago, enticed him into a stable, where it drew blood from him, and then flew into the sky. With respect to the murder of his children, he observed to the coroner, with apparent unconcern, that he supposed it was as bad a case as ever he had heard of.

The horrid circumstances of these murders were fully proved, and he was convicted, and suffered the final sentence of the law.

MARTHA ALDEN

*Executed, 31st of July, 1807, for murdering her Husband
in a Cottage near Attleborough, Norfolk*

THE trial of Martha Alden on a charge of murder came on at the Summer Assizes for the county of Norfolk, in the year 1807. Samuel Alden, the victim of her brutality, was a husbandman, occupying a small cottage near Attleborough, in that county, and was accounted a quiet, industrious character.

Edmund Draper stated that on Saturday, the 18th of July, he was in company with the deceased at the White Horse public-house at Attleborough ; that the prisoner, who was present when witness and the deceased met, said to them she was going home with her child, and went away. Witness sat drinking with Alden till nearly twelve o'clock, chatting with the wife of the publican ; he then accompanied the deceased to his house, which lay on the way to his own home. Witness stated that he himself was perfectly sober at the time ; that Alden, however, was rather fresh, but sober enough to walk, staggering a little. No ill words passed between the deceased and the prisoner in his presence. He proceeded home in the direction of Thetford, and saw no one on the road. Alden's house consisted of a kitchen and bedroom, both on the same floor, and separated from each other by a small narrow passage. He saw no one in the

MARTHA ALDEN

house except the prisoner and the deceased, and a little boy about seven years old.

Charles Hill, of Attleborough, stated that on the morning of Sunday, the 19th, he rose between two and three o'clock to go on a journey to Shelf Anger Hall, about ten miles from Attleborough, to see a daughter. When he approached the deceased's house he saw the door open, and the prisoner was standing within a few yards of the door ; this was at nearly three o'clock in the morning. The prisoner accosted the witness, by saying she could not think what smart young man it was who was coming down the common. The witness replied : " Martha, what the devil are you up to at this time of the morning ? " She said she had been down to the pit in her garden for some water ; this garden was on the opposite side of the road to the house.

Sarah Leeder, widow, of Attleborough, stated that on Monday night, the 20th of July, the prisoner came to her house to borrow a spade, for a neighbour's sow had broken into her garden and rooted up her potatoes. The witness lent her one, which was marked J. H., and she went away with it. On the following evening (Tuesday, 21st), about eleven o'clock, she went out of her house upon the common to look for some ducks she had missed, and found them in a small pit ; near this pit there was another of a larger size, beside a place called Wright's Plantation. In this greater pit, or pond, she saw something lying which attracted her attention ; she went to the edge of the pond and touched it with a stick, upon which it sank and rose again ; but the place, though the moon shone, was shaded, and she could not discover what it was, so went home for the night. The next morning (Wednesday, 22nd), however, the witness returned to the spot, and again touched the substance with a stick, which still lay almost covered with water ; she then, to her great terror, saw the two hands of a man appear, with the arms of a shirt stained with blood. She instantly concluded that a murdered man had been thrown in there, and called to a lad to go and acquaint the neighbourhood with the circumstances, and went back in

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great alarm to her own house. In a quarter of an hour she returned again to the pond, and found that in her absence the body had been taken out. She then knew it to be the body of Samuel Alden. His face was dreadfully chopped, and his head cut very nearly off. The body was put into a cart and carried to the house of the deceased. The witness afterwards went to look for her spade, and found it standing by the side of a hole, which she described as looking like a grave, dug in the ditch which surrounded Alden's garden. She further stated that this hole was open, not very deep, and that she saw blood lying near it.

Edward Rush stated that on Wednesday morning (the 22nd of July), by order of the constable of Attleborough parish, he searched the prisoner's residence. In a dark chamber he found a bill-hook, which on examination appeared to have blood on its handle, and also on the blade, but looked as if it had been washed. He also confirmed the statement of a preceding witness as to the state of the bedroom in the house of the deceased, and described its dimensions to be about seven feet by ten.

Mary Orvice stated that she had been acquainted with the prisoner for some time, and had frequently been at her house. On Sunday (the 19th) the prisoner asked her to go with her to her house. When she got there, the prisoner said to her : "I have killed my husband"; and, taking her into the bedroom, showed her the body lying on the bed, quite dead, with the wounds as before described; she also saw a hook lying on the floor with blood on it. When the hook was shown to her in court, she said it was the very same she had then seen. The prisoner then produced a common corn sack, and, at her request, the witness held it whilst the prisoner put the body into it; the prisoner then carried the body from the bedroom, through the passage and kitchen, out of the house, across the road to the ditch surrounding the garden, and left it there, after throwing some mould over it. The witness then left the prisoner and went to Larling. The prisoner slept that night at the witness's father's house. On the following night (the 20th), between

MARTHA ALDEN

nine and ten o'clock, the witness was again in the company of the prisoner, and saw her remove the body of her husband (who was a small man) from the ditch in the garden to the pit on the common, dragging it herself along the ground in the sack ; and when she arrived at the pit, the prisoner shot the body into it out of the sack, which she afterwards carried away with her. The deceased had a shirt and slop on. The next morning (Tuesday) the witness went to the prisoner's house and assisted in cleaning it up, taking some warm water and washing and scraping the wall next the bed. The prisoner bade the witness to be sure not to say a word about the matter ; for, if she did, she (the witness) would certainly be hanged. Upon being questioned to that effect by the judge, this witness further stated that she had told the story to her father on the Tuesday night, but to nobody else.

The learned judge then summed up the evidence in a very full and able manner. On the subject of Mary Orvice's testimony, his Lordship remarked that it certainly came under great suspicion, as being that of an accessory to the attempted concealment of the murder. Viewing it in that light, therefore, and taking it separately, it was to be received with extreme caution ; but if it should be found, in most material facts, to agree with and corroborate the successive statements of the other witnesses, whose declarations did not labour under those disadvantages, the jury were then to give it due weight and avail themselves of the information which it threw on the transaction.

The jury consulted together for a short time, and found the prisoner guilty. Whereupon the learned judge proceeded to pass upon her the awful sentence of the law ; which was, that on Friday she should be drawn on a hurdle to the place of execution, there to be hanged by the neck till she was dead, and her body afterwards to be dissected. She confessed the crime for which she was to suffer, and acknowledged that the girl (Orvice) had no concern whatever in the murder, but only assisted, at her request, in putting the body of her husband into the sack.

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On Friday, 31st of July, at twelve o'clock, this unhappy female was drawn on a hurdle, and executed on the castle hill, pursuant to her sentence, in presence of an immense concourse of spectators. She behaved at the fatal tree with the decency becoming her awful situation.

ROBERT POWELL

A Starving Fortune-Teller, who was convicted by the Middlesex Magistrates of being a Rogue and Vagabond, 1807

THOUGH the offence committed by this unfortunate man was neither of great magnitude nor fraught with contumacy against the penal laws of the land, yet there is in his fate something so singularly curious, so strongly tinctured with eccentricity, that we have deemed it fit subject-matter for the pages of our criminal chronology. It is, however, merely the contemptible case of one of those petty deceptive cheats, yclept "fortune-tellers"; but, as the prisoner deemed himself—an "astrologer."

This "seer," Robert Powell, was charged before the Middlesex magistrates, in terms extremely degrading to the high and mysterious dignity of a sideral professor, with being a rogue, vagabond and impostor, and obtaining money under false and fraudulent pretences from one Thomas Barnes, a footman in the service of Surgeon Blair, of Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury, and taking from him two shillings and sixpence under pretences of telling him the destinies of a female fellow-servant, by means of his skill in astrological divination.

The nature of the offence and the *pia fraus*, or ingenious trap, by which the disciple of Zoroaster was caught in the midst of his sorceries were briefly as follows. This descendant of the Magi, born to illuminate the world by promulgating the will of the stars and the high behests of fate, had of course no wish to conceal his person, his avocations or his residence: on the contrary, he resolved to announce his qualifications in the form of a printed

ROBERT POWELL

handbill, and to distribute the manifesto for the information of the world.

One of those bills was dropped down the area of Mr Blair's house, in Great Russell Street; it was found by his footman, or factotum, and laid on the breakfast-table, with the newspapers of the morning, as a morceau of novelty, for his amusement; of which, as is sometimes said in an august assembly, to prevent mistakes, we have obtained the following copy:—

Sciential Instructions

A. B.

PROFESSOR OF THE SIDERAL SCIENCE

No. 5 SUTTON STREET, SOHO SQUARE

*Teaches Astrology and Calculating Nativities, with the
most Precise Accuracy, at 2s. 6d. per Lesson*

APPLICATION TO THE COURTEOUS READER

WHO will not praise and admire the glory of the sun and stars, and the frame of heaven, and not wish to know their influence and operation upon earth? For fear of the ridicule of revilers and vilifiers of the science, who understand it not, and so deem it fraud and iniquity.

Oh, happy world! if they were not a hundred thousand times more hurt by the baits of pleasure, honour, pride, authority, arrogance, extortion, envy, covetousness and cruelty! and thereby make or ruin themselves, by grasping and wantonness; and others by deception, craft, fraud and villainy! but that is all gilded over, and so such pass for good respectable people. Some may start and rave at this, but who can confute the truth of it?

Can any suppose that the stars, the celestial bodies, are designed for no other purpose than for us to look at heedlessly, as being of no worth, nor having any effect on us? Daily experience, and the most learned of all ages, have proved it, and testified it to us that they have, and in a great degree do determine our fate; which I and all other

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professors have experienced and proved in thousands of different nativities. Who then, by means of such a noble and inestimable science, would not wish for a precognition of the events of their most sanguine hopes and fears, which alternately alleviate or depress their minds? Is the praising and magnifying a work a wrong to the workman? Is knowing, manifesting and experiencing, the power and operations of the created, wronging or dishonouring the Creator? Though this be a persecuted science, yet happy world! how blest a state, if nothing worse was practised in it!

No letters, unless post paid, will be taken in.

Mr Blair concerted, with some of the agents of the Society for the Suppression of Vice, a stratagem to entrap the sidereal professor; in the furtherance of which he dictated to his footman a letter to the "seer," expressive of a wish to know the future destinies of his fellow-servant, the cook-maid, and what sort of husband the constellations had, in their benign influence, assigned her. With this letter the footman set out for No. 5 Sutton Street, Soho, where he found the "seer" had, for the convenience of prompt intercourse, chosen his habitation as near the stars as the roof of the mansion would admit. In fact, he found him in that part of the house which Juvenal facetiously describes "*Ubi reddunt, ova Columbae,*" otherwise "the attic storey," by some termed "the roost of genius," or "the first floor down the chimney." Here the footman announced the object of his embassy, delivered his credentials, and was told by the "seer" that he could certainly give him an answer now, "by word of mouth"; but if he would call next day he should be better prepared, as in the meantime he could consult the stars, and have for him a written answer.

The footman retired, and returned next morning, received a written response, gave to the "seer" the usual donation of half-a-crown, previously marked, which sum he figured upon the answer, and the receipt of which the unsuspecting sage acknowledged by his signature.

ROBERT POWELL

With this proof of his diligence he returned to his master, and was further directed to go and state the matter in due form to the magistrates. The vigilant Trott was, in consequence, sent tripping after the prophet. He set out at a canter, and soon arrived, at full gallop, at this attic mansion, where he found the sage absorbed in profound cogitation, casting the nativities of two plump and prurient damsels, and consulting the dispositions of the stars as to the disposition of the lasses, and the kind of sweethearts or husbands they were destined to have. Not only were the planets consulted, but all the eminent authorities, from *Moore's Almanack* up to the Ptolemies, which composed the "seer's" library, were shrewdly scanned on the subject. All the conjunctions of course were found to be copulative, and the omens propitious; but the unrelenting Trott entered, and proceeded to fulfil his mission.

On searching the unfortunate sage, the identical half-crown paid him by Barnes was found, accompanied by two other pieces of similar value, in his pocket, where such coins had long been strangers; and the cabalistical chattels of his profession accompanied him, as the lawful spoil of the captor.

The magistrates, before whom, it seemed, the prisoner had been more than once cited upon similar charges, observed that it was extremely reprehensible for a man like him, who possessed abilities which, by honest exertion, might obtain for him a creditable livelihood, thus to degrade himself to a trade of imposture and fraud upon the ignorant and unsuspicious orders of society.

The wretched prisoner stood motionless and self-convicted. Aged, tall, meagre, ragged, filthy and careworn, his squalid looks expressed the various features of want and sorrow. Every line of his countenance seemed a furrow of grief and anguish; and, his eyes gushing with tears, in faint and trembling accents he addressed the magistrates. He acknowledged the truth of the charge against him, but he said that nothing save want and the miseries of a wretched family had driven him to adopt such a mode of procuring

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them food. If he had been able to labour he would gladly have swept the streets to obtain them food, but he was too feeble to gain employment, even in that way ; he had tried every other within the scope of his capacity, but in vain. He could not dig, to beg he was ashamed ; and even if begging, either by private solicitation or openly in the streets, had promised him a casual resource in the charity of the passing crowd, he was afraid he should thereby incur prosecution as a rogue and vagabond, and be consigned to imprisonment in Bridewell. Parish settlement he had none ; and what was to be done with a miserable lunatic wife (for the moon was still worse to him than the stars) and three naked, famishing children ? He had no choice but famine, theft or imposture.

The magistrates, obviously affected by this scene, said that they felt themselves obliged to commit the prisoner, as he had not only been repeatedly warned of the consequences of his way of life, but had once before been convicted of a similar offence. He was therefore convicted under the Vagrant Act.

JOHN ALMOND

Convicted at the December Sessions, 1807, of forging a Will, and executed before Newgate

JOHN ALMOND, aged forty-five, was an inspector of lamps for the parish of St James's, Westminster ; from which, and another similar situation, he derived an income of about one hundred and fifty pounds per annum. Abraham Priddy was a lamplighter, living in Marlborough Row, Carnaby Market. The prisoner had lodged for some time at Priddy's house, and by that means became acquainted with his circumstances, and formed the plan of fraud for which he forfeited his life. His trial came on at the Old Bailey, before Mr Justice Grose, December, 1807.

Thomas Harrison, a clerk in the Prerogative Office, Doctors' Commons, said that on the 11th of June the

JOHN ALMOND

prisoner brought to the office a deed purporting to be the will of Abraham Priddy, by which the prisoner, who was declared in the will to be the testator's brother-in-law, was made his executor and residuary legatee. The will further stated that the said Abraham Priddy was possessed of three hundred pounds in the four per cents., and gave the sum of fifty pounds to his wife, and two other sums of fifty pounds each to two other persons, who were afterwards proved to have no existence. The prisoner had been formerly a clerk in the Prerogative Office, and had engrossed many wills, so that the witness knew his handwriting, and observed to him at the time that this will had been written by him ; to which the prisoner replied it was. To this will was affixed the mark of Priddy, who, the prisoner said, was now dead. Everything was transacted regularly, and an attested copy of the will was received by the prisoner on the 12th or 13th of June. Witness acted according to the instructions of the prisoner, and wrote on the other side of the will, "Abraham Priddy, testator, formerly of Marlborough Row, Carnaby Market, and Smith's Court, Windmill Street, St James's, late of the hamlet of Hammersmith, died on the 10th instant." The witness perfectly recollects the prisoner's handwriting, though it was about twenty-three years since he was clerk in the same office with him, and he had never seen him write but once since then.

Abraham Priddy said that he had known the prisoner sixteen years. One day he took the opportunity of advising him, for some trifling reason or other, not to go into the City to receive his dividends that half-year ; to which witness replied that it was of no consequence to him (the prisoner) when he went. Upon witness's going into the City, however, some time later, the stock was gone, and was found to be transferred to the prisoner, who had given himself out as Priddy's executor. Witness added that he could neither read nor write, and had never made a will in his life.

The forged will was now read, and the witness was asked if the prisoner was his brother-in-law ; which was answered in the negative.

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Mary Priddy, wife to Abraham Priddy, said that some time before this happened the prisoner had asked her, in the course of conversation, what stock her husband had in the bank. She told him, with great simplicity, that he had three hundred pounds four per cents.

It was afterwards proved by John Rose, a stockbroker, and Charles Norris, a clerk from the bank, that the money in the four per cents. had been transferred over to the prisoner, in consequence of his producing the forged will, and who, in that transfer, subscribed himself executor to the deceased Priddy.

The jury, after a short consultation, found the prisoner guilty. On the morning of his execution, 20th of January, 1808, he received the Sacrament; after which he proceeded to the fatal platform, before the debtors' door, Old Bailey, when he was launched into eternity.

RICHARD OWEN

*Convicted of Cross-Dropping, and sentenced to Transportation,
at the Old Bailey, January Sessions, 1808*

■ prisoner, who had only recently returned from transportation, was walking in the Green Park, when he fell into conversation with an elderly lady. As they walked together he pretended to pick up something that lay in her way. He exclaimed, "What have we here?" and, opening a small packet, said, "We have found a prize, madam." The parcel contained a gold cross, apparently set with diamonds, and there was inscribed on the outside "a diamond cross." The prisoner appeared exceedingly rejoiced at *their* good fortune; and, while he was conversing upon its supposed worth, he *accidentally* observed a friend, and, after the usual salutations, informed him that he and the lady had picked up a diamond cross of some value, and were at a loss how to divide their good fortune. The friend looked at it, and undertook to inquire its value of a jeweller if the parties would step into some coffee-house, or genteel public-house,

RICHARD OWEN

for a moment. The old lady was persuaded ; and, having no suspicion of the cheat, agreed to go into a public-house. The friend went about his errand, and soon returned, saying that the jeweller had offered only forty pounds for the cross, but that he was confident it was worth one hundred pounds.

The prisoner then asked the lady if she had any property about her, and proposed to leave the diamond cross with her, provided she could give him anything like an equivalent for his share. She said she had five pounds and a gold watch worth twenty pounds. This the prisoner proposed she should give to him, with her address, that he might deal honourably with her, in case the cross should not, in the opinion of her friends, be worth more than fifty pounds ; and on the other hand, if it sold for one hundred pounds, that he might be enabled to claim his share. The foolish woman, who was the widow of a military officer, parted with her watch and five-pound note, and on consulting a jeweller found that the cross was made of mock diamonds, and was not worth more than a guinea. She also found, too late, that she had been robbed, and immediately gave information at the office ; and from the description she gave of the prisoner—that of his being a tall, stout, old man, with a wig, and his general appearance like that of a farmer—the officers told her that if she would go with them to Leicester Fields they thought they could show her the individual. She did go, and the prisoner was apprehended in consequence of her pointing him out. Some altercation took place whether or not the offence constituted a felony. This objection was overruled, and the jury found the prisoner guilty.

The old lady was, however, fortunate enough to get back her watch, but sacrificed the five-pound note to the shrine of credulity. The rogue was once more shipped off to Botany Bay.

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WILLIAM WALKER

A Soldier in the Middlesex Militia. Sentenced to Death for a Highway Robbery of Sixpence and a Penny-Piece, but reprieved at the Request of his Victim, February, 1808

IN the February sessions of 1808 this disgraceful soldier was capitally indicted for assaulting Thomas Oldfield on the highway, putting him in fear, and forcibly taking from his person a sixpence and a penny-piece, his property.

It appeared from the evidence of the prosecutor, who was an athletic old man, that on the 10th of October, 1807, between nine and ten o'clock at night, he was passing over the fields from Pentonville towards town, when a man came up to him and asked him, with great apparent good nature, whether he had any money in his pocket. The prosecutor demanded why he asked the question; upon which the prisoner immediately changed his voice, and, with an oath, demanded his money. The prosecutor pulled from his pocket a sixpence and a penny and gave it to the assailant. As he took it he looked downwards, and asked how much there was. At that instant the prosecutor struck him a blow on his side, and he reeled from him. The prosecutor at the same moment perceived the prisoner clap his hand to his side, as if he were going to draw his side-arms; and, springing forward, he struck him another blow in his face, which brought him to the ground. He then jumped upon him, and kept struggling with him on the ground for nearly five minutes. The soldier then entreated he might be permitted to get up. The prosecutor replied he should get up, provided he delivered up his bayonet. This was assented to, and he gave up his side-arms; whereupon the prosecutor permitted him to get upon his legs. The prosecutor observed, at the same time, that if he attempted to come near him he was a dead man, as he was determined to run him through.

Just as the individual was making off, the prosecutor heard someone come up, and it was rather a curious

THOMAS SIMMONS

coincidence that the person who came to his assistance should be his own son. The prosecutor, by this time exhausted by his exertions and his fears, had just strength enough left to exclaim: "That scoundrel has robbed me, and probably would have done me some mischief had I not overpowered him!"

The thief then made off, but the son followed him; he failed in the pursuit, and the thief effected his escape. The prosecutor, however, had retained the bayonet, and went the next day to the headquarters of the regiment. Having told his story, it was recollected that the prisoner had that morning appeared on parade with his face very much bruised and swelled. The bayonet, too, was proved to be the prisoner's, marked "31," and was more strongly corroborated by his being without one. The prisoner was accordingly apprehended, and, having no defence to set up against the case made out on the part of the prosecution, he was found guilty and sentenced to death.

The prosecutor, with equal eccentricity and humanity, told the judge that he hoped he would not hang the prisoner, and that if he was sent out of the country he should be satisfied—which the Court assented to.

THOMAS SIMMONS

Executed at Hertford, 7th of March, 1808, for a Double Murder

THOMAS SIMMONS was not more than nineteen years of age, and of a clownish appearance. His father was a shoemaker by trade, but followed the plough some years before his death.

At an early age Thomas was taken into Mr Boreham's family, where he lived some years, till, by his brutish behaviour in several instances, they were under the necessity of discharging him; after which he worked at Messrs Christie & Co., brewers.

Mr Boreham, a very old gentleman, afflicted by the palsy,

NEWGATE CALENDAR

had been many years a resident at Hoddesdon ; his house was on the declivity of the hill, beyond that town, about two hundred yards from the market-house. He had four daughters : one of them was the wife of Mr Warner, brass-founder, of the Crescent, Kingsland Road, and also of the Crescent, Jewin Street. Mrs Warner had been on a visit to her parents for several days. On Tuesday evening, 20th of October, 1807, Mrs Hummerstone, who superintended, as housekeeper, the business of the Black Lion Inn, at Hoddesdon, for Mr Batty, the proprietor, was also at Mr Boreham's house, in consequence of an invitation to spend the evening with the family. The company had assembled in the parlour, where were Mr Boreham, his wife, and his four daughters, Anne, Elizabeth, Sarah, and Mrs Warner. About a quarter past nine this party were alarmed by a very loud voice at the back of the house. It proceeded from some person in dispute with the servant-woman, Elizabeth Harris, and who was insisting to get into the house. The person proved to be Thomas Simmons, who, it seems, had, whilst in the family, paid his addresses to the servant, Elizabeth Harris, who was many years older than himself ; but the symptoms of a ferocious and ungovernable temper, which he had frequently displayed, had induced his mistress to dissuade the woman from any connection with him ; and his violent disposition had led also to his dismissal from this family. He had been heard to vow vengeance against Elizabeth Harris and the eldest Miss Boreham ; and on Tuesday night he made his way to the farmyard, and from thence into an interior court, called the stoneyard.

Elizabeth Harris, on seeing his approach, retired within the scullery, and shut the door against him. He demanded admittance, which she refused. High words accordingly arose, and he plunged his hand, armed with a knife, through a lattice window at her, but missed his aim. This noise alarmed the company in the parlour, or keeping-room, as it was called. Mrs Hummerstone was the first to come forth, in the hope of being able to intimidate and send away the disturber ; but just as she reached the back door, leading

THOMAS SIMMONS

from the parlour to the stoneyard, Simmons, who was proceeding to enter the house that way, met her, and with his knife stabbed her in the jugular artery ; he then pulled the knife forward, and laid open her throat on the left side. She ran forward, as is supposed, for the purpose of alarming the neighbourhood, but fell, and rose no more.

The murderer pursued his sanguinary purpose, and, rushing into the parlour, raised and brandished his blood-stained knife, swearing a dreadful oath that he would give it them all. Mrs Warner was the person next him, and, without giving her time to rise from her chair, he gave her so many stabs in the jugular vein, and about her neck and breast, that she fell from her chair, covered with streams of blood, and expired. Fortunately Miss Anne Boreham had been upstairs immediately previous to the commencement of this horrid business ; and her sisters, Elizabeth and Sarah, terrified at the horrors they saw, ran upstairs too, for safety.

The villain next attacked the aged Mrs Boreham by a similar aim at her jugular artery, but missed the point, and wounded her deep in the neck, though not mortally. While the poor old gentleman was making his way towards the kitchen, where the servant-maid was, the miscreant, in endeavouring to reach the same place, upset him, and then endeavoured to stab the servant in the throat ; she struggled with him, caught at the knife, and was wounded severely in the hand and arm. The knife fell in the struggle. She, however, got out at the back door and made her way into the street, where, by her screams of "murder," she alarmed the neighbourhood. The poor people residing near the house were all in their beds, but the whole town was soon alarmed.

The murderer sought to conceal himself, but after some search he was discovered in a cow-crib. He was immediately made prisoner, and brought to the Bell ale-house, where he was bound and handcuffed until morning, and was actually on the point of death, from the tightness of his ligatures, which had nearly stopped the circulation, when Mr Fairfax,

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of the Black Bull Inn, in the town, interfered, cut the ligatures, and thereby prevented a death too summary for the cause of public justice.

The prisoner was committed to Hertford Jail, to abide his trial, which commenced, before Mr Justice Heath, on Friday, 4th of March.

As Mr Boreham's family, who were all Quakers, refused to prosecute on behalf of Mrs Warner, the prisoner was tried on only one indictment—viz. for the murder of Mrs Hummerstone—at the instance of Mr W. White and Mr B. Fairfax, of the Bull Inn, Hoddesdon, and Mr J. Brown, churchwarden of that place.

Evidence having been given, the jury gave the verdict of guilty; and the learned judge pronounced the dreadful sentence of the law. The sentence seemed to affect the prisoner very little; he walked from the bar with great coolness and indifference, and suffered the punishment denounced for his crime on the 7th of March, 1808.

JOHN SHEPHERD

Convicted, at Lancaster, of a Riot and setting fire to the Prison, June, 1808

JOHN SHEPHERD was indicted with John Turner for having, with divers persons unknown, riotously assembled at Rochdale, and burned the prison, on the 1st of June, 1808.

Mr Park observed that it was no merit in the prisoners that they escaped a capital offence, but as no person resided in the prison it was not a dwelling-house. Circumstances had come to his knowledge, and those entrusted with the management of those trials for the Crown, respecting John Turner, they having it from undoubted authority that he had not gone among the mob with any improper motive, but had remained in company with some of them from mere idle curiosity; and as he was not a weaver they had agreed to admit him an evidence.

JOHN SHEPHERD

John Kershaw, an inhabitant of Rochdale, deposed that at noon, on the 1st of June, the town was extremely agitated by the entrance of a mob, to the number of about two hundred, which increased in the course of the day to about one thousand. Soon after they entered the town, one of them mounted on a large stone and harangued the mob ; he could not hear what he said, but it appeared to please the mob in general, as they huzzaed several times. Dr Drake and Mr Entwistle, the magistrates, who in general conducted the business of that part of the county, came into the town and addressed the mob, who behaved very civilly and respectfully to the magistrates, but refused to disperse. The magistrates, in consequence, went to the house where they usually transacted their business, and swore in the witness, and about two hundred others, special constables. Two-thirds of them were, in the course of the day and night, maimed or bruised, by stones being thrown at them, and other violence exercised towards them. The rioters entered the peaceable weavers' houses and forcibly took away their shuttles. The special constables succeeded in securing some shuttles from the rioters, and deposited them in the prison for safety, and they took five or six of the rioters before the magistrates. However, as they were conveying them to the prison they were rescued.

The windows of the room where the magistrates were sitting were broken with large stones, the stones being intended to injure the manufacturers of the town and neighbourhood, who had all resorted to the magistrates' room for safety, and not intended for the magistrates. The magistrates remained in the town till seven o'clock : at their departure the prisoners and others of the mob pulled off their hats to them, and behaved very respectfully. Soon after the magistrates were gone they behaved in a very outrageous manner. They attacked the prison—in consequence of a number of shuttles being deposited in it for safety—the doors of which had been supposed to be impenetrable, and set it on fire, which was understood to be also impossible, so much of it being stone. They, however, contrived to

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demolish it so much that it was now merely ruinous walls. After they had set the prison on fire they said they would go to the New Hall, the residence of Mr James Royds, one of the principal manufacturers, if he did not give them some money.

John Whitehead, who resides not two miles off Rochdale, said the prisoners called at his house at four o'clock the following morning, much intoxicated, and said they had got money at Rochdale, and wanted him to help them to spend it ; they told him how things were going on there, and said the prison was on fire. The witness told them they would all be hanged. Shepherd said his hands had set it on fire, and showed a piece of lead, which he said was part of it.

Turner, who was admitted an evidence, said he was standing with Shepherd, opposite the prison, when it was on fire, where he observed that if any man put the fire out he would endanger his life. Shepherd told him he had got five pounds from Mr Royds ; they went to Mr Deardon's for money, where a guinea was thrown out to them. At one time Shepherd asked if any man would go with him to set Charles Trot's manufactory on fire.

The jury found Shepherd guilty. He was imprisoned.

HECTOR CAMPBELL, Esq.

Fined and imprisoned, in the Year 1808, for acting as a Physician without a Licence

MR CAMPBELL, though convicted of practising without the leave of the College of Physicians, had been a surgeon in the navy, was a man of science and skill, and, but for a misplaced pride, might have readily passed his examination and obtained his diploma.

He was indicted by the Royal College of Physicians, in Warwick Lane, for unlawfully prescribing and practising physic, etc., in London, and within seven miles round the same, he not having been examined by the College with regard to his skill, or being licensed by them to practise

HECTOR CAMPBELL

these arts. In order to bottom the indictment, the charter constituting the Royal College of Physicians by Charles II. was produced and read, and various details of the laws and by-laws of the college were stated and proved. By one of these by-laws, confirmed by the charter, as also by an Act of the legislature, any person who presumed to exercise the calling of a physician, etc., he not being licensed so as to exercise that vocation, was to be summoned by a summons and monition to appear before the College. The defendant, having carried on these arts for some time, was at length summoned to appear before the censor of the College, on the 6th of March. This summons was issued by Dr Harvey, the registrar, by authority of the censors; but the defendant did not appear.

Dr Harvey deposed that on the 3rd of April he prepared an interdiction against Dr Campbell, by authority of the Board, which was signed by all its members on that day. He was a witness to the signature of the interdiction, and delivered it to Miller, the beadle. The whole Board, he said, did not sign in cases of summonses, but in those of interdictions they did.

Dr Pitcairn, one of the censors, was present when the defendant appeared before the College. The defendant seemed to plume himself on the eminence to which he said he had attained in the profession. He called himself Dr Campbell, and wrote prescriptions in the style in which physicians generally do. Campbell said the College had not acted impartially towards him, and had been impelled to resist him by unworthy motives; he added that two very eminent physicians had forced themselves into the profession by paying sums of money. On this the president desired Mr Campbell to be silent, and to withdraw, which the defendant refused to do, stating he had not come before the College unadvisedly, as he had consulted his lawyer on what conduct he ought to pursue. The defendant clapped his hand in his pocket and asked what was to pay; and, just before leaving the room, he was asked by the president whether he felt inclined to relinquish the practice of surgery

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and medicine he then carried on. The defendant replied in the negative ; when he was told by the president that legal measures would, to a certainty, be resorted to in order to compel him so to do. The defendant made a most gross reply, distinguishing the Board as a set of scoundrels.

Dr Lambe proved that he had received a letter from the defendant after the above transaction, and Sir Lucas Pepys deposed that the letter had been handed over to him by Dr Lambe. The letter was expressive of the sorrow and contrition of the defendant for the intemperate expressions he had made use of to the College, and concluded with offering a most humble apology for his error.

Mr Nolan addressed the jury on the part of the defendant. He observed that if Dr Campbell had got the advice of a counsel, the advice he had used was false, erroneous and unwise. The defendant, it was his duty to state, had practised from the age of eighteen as a surgeon, with great credit and fame to himself and universal benefit to the public. This was in the country ; and the defendant's anxiety for science and for extended knowledge in his profession induced him to take up his residence in the metropolis as a medical practitioner. He was summoned before the Royal College of Physicians, and in answer to these summonses he wrote a letter to Dr Harvey, civil and respectful in the extreme. He received an answer from the doctor in his capacity as an individual, not in his official character ; but upon that it was unnecessary for him to enlarge. It was his object here to state the feelings of Dr Campbell, when he received a letter which irritated his mind, as a man and a gentleman. To this irritability in the defendant's temper was attributable all that followed. His mind had been broken by what he conceived to be asperity on the part of the College, and he so far forgot himself as to utter the offensive words described by Dr Pitcairn. The letter, however, which had been sent by Dr Campbell as an expiation of his offence was couched in such terms that pity came to his aid, and he understood that learned body did not mean to press for judgment before the Court should

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the defendant be convicted. Dr Campbell had done all that frail man could do. He had confessed his error, and had made a most befitting and becoming apology.

Lord Ellenborough, in his address to the jury, said it was impossible for him to anticipate what might be the effect of an appeal to the Court by the Royal College of Physicians, when the defendant might be brought up for judgment, in his behalf. That was not the point at issue : the jury had to consider whether, under all the circumstances of the case, they were convinced that the general counts and allegations in the indictment were made out. Were they convinced of that, they would find the defendant guilty ; if, on the contrary, they entertained any reasonable doubt, they would give the defendant all the benefit of those doubts. The jury found the defendant guilty, and he was ordered to be imprisoned, and to pay a fine.

ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, Esq.

Brevet-Major in the Army, and a Captain in the 21st Regiment of Foot. Executed 24th of August, 1808, at Armagh, in Ireland, for murdering a Brother Official, whom he killed in a Duel

ALEXANDER CAMPBELL was tried at the Armagh Assizes, 13th of August, 1808, for the wilful and felonious murder of Alexander Boyd, captain in the same regiment, by shooting him with a pistol bullet, on the 23rd of June, 1808, in the county of Armagh, in the kingdom of Ireland. This murder was committed in a duel.

The first witness called was George Adams, who deposed that about nine in the evening of the 23rd of June he was sent for in great haste to the deceased, Captain Boyd, who had since died of a wound he had received by a pistol bullet, which had penetrated the extremity of the four false ribs and lodged in the cavity of the belly. This wound, he could take upon himself to say, was the cause of his death. He was sitting on a chair vomiting blood when witness was sent for :

John Hoey, mess-waiter to the 21st Regiment, swore that he went with a message from Major Campbell to Captain Boyd, by means of which they met.

Lieutenant Macpherson, surgeon, Nice, and others, proved the dying words of Captain Boyd.

John Greenhill was produced to prove that Major Campbell had had time to cool after the altercation had taken place, inasmuch as he went home, drank tea with his family, and gave him a box to leave with Lieutenant Hall before the affair took place.

The defence set up was merely as to the character of the prisoner for humanity, peaceful conduct and proper behaviour: to this several officers of the highest rank were produced, who vouched for it to the fullest extent—namely, Colonel Paterson, of the 21st Regiment, General Campbell, General Graham Stirling, Captain Macpherson, Captain Menzies, Colonel Gray, and many others.

The learned judge, in his charge, briefly summed up the main points, and thus concluded: “If you are of opinion either that the provocation, which I have mentioned to you, was too slight to excite that violence of passion which the law requires for manslaughter, or that, be the passion and the provocation what it might, still that the prisoner had time to cool, and return to his reason—in either of these cases you are bound upon your oaths to find the prisoner guilty of murder. There is still another point for your serious consideration. It has been correctly stated to you by the counsel that there is a thing called the point of honour—a principle totally false in itself, and unrecognised both by law and morality, but which, from its practical importance and the mischief attending any disregard of it to the individual concerned, and particularly to

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a military individual, has usually been taken into consideration by juries, and admitted as a kind of extenuation. But in all such cases, gentlemen of the jury, there have been, and there must be, certain grounds for such indulgent consideration—such departure from the letter and spirit of the law. In the first place, the provocation must be great; in the second place, there must be a perfectly fair dealing—the contract, to oppose life to life, must be perfect on both sides, the consent of both must be full; neither of them must be forced into the field; and thirdly, there must be something of a necessity, a compulsion, to give and take the meeting; the consequence of refusing it being the loss of reputation, and there being no means of honourable reconciliation left. Let me not be mistaken on this serious point. I am not justifying duelling; I am only stating those circumstances of extenuation which are the only grounds that can justify a jury in dispensing with the letter of the law. You have to consider, therefore, gentlemen of the jury, whether this case has these circumstances of extenuation. You must here recall to your minds the words of the deceased Captain Boyd: "You have hurried me: I wanted you to wait and have friends. Campbell, you are a bad man." These words are very important, and if you deem them sufficiently proved they certainly do away with all extenuation. If you think them proved, the prisoner is most clearly guilty of murder."

The jury then retired, and, after remaining about half-an-hour out of court, returned with their verdict—guilty of murder; but recommended him to mercy on the score of character only. Sentence of death was immediately passed on the unfortunate gentleman, and he was ordered for execution on the Monday; but, in consequence of the recommendation of the jury, was respite till the Wednesday se'nnight. In the meantime every effort was made by the friends of the unfortunate man to procure the Royal mercy. The respite expired on the 23rd of August, and an order was sent from Dublin Castle to Armagh for the execution of the unfortunate gentleman on the 24th. His deportment during the whole of the melancholy interval between his

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condemnation and the day of his execution was manly but penitent, and such as became a Christian towards his approaching dissolution. When he was informed that all efforts to procure a pardon had failed he was only anxious for the immediate execution of the sentence. He had repeatedly implored that he might be shot; but as this was not suitable to the forms of the common law his entreaties were of course without success.

He was led out for execution on Wednesday, the 24th of August, just as the clock struck twelve. A vast crowd had collected around the scene of the catastrophe. He surveyed them a moment, then turned his head towards heaven with a look of prayer. As soon as he appeared, the whole of the attending guards, and such of the soldiery as were spectators, took off their caps; upon which the Major saluted them in turn. This spectacle was truly distressing, and tears and shrieks burst from several parts of the crowd. When the executioner approached to fix the cord, Major Campbell again looked up to heaven. There was now the most profound silence. The executioner seemed paralysed whilst performing this last act of his duty. There was scarcely a dry eye out of so many thousands assembled. The crowd seemed thunderstruck when the unfortunate gentleman was at length turned off. After hanging the usual time the body was put into a hearse which was waiting.

JAMES WOOD

Convicted at the Cumberland Summer Assizes, 1808, and executed for a Double Murder

ON the 24th of August, 1808, James Wood was put to the bar, charged with the wilful murder of Margaret Smith, wife of Thomas Smith, weaver, of Longburn, and Jane Pattinson, of the same place, spinster.

Thomas Smith, the prosecutor, and husband of Margaret Smith, deceased, was called and sworn. He said that he lived at Longburn, in the parish of Bromfield, was by trade a weaver, and had a small farm. James Wood, the prisoner,

JAMES WOOD

came to his house at Martinmas last, when he was at Wigton Market. His wife and wife's sister were at home, and the prisoner was detained by them till his return. The prisoner being a weaver, the prosecutor engaged him to work out a web which he had in the loom. He said the prisoner was a good workman, and could make about fifteen shillings a week when he chose to work, but seldom made much more than seven shillings, which was the price agreed on for his board. He continued with him in the capacity of a journeyman weaver from that time till 19th of January, 1808, on which day the prosecutor went in the morning to Wigton Market, leaving his wife, his wife's sister and the prisoner in the house. He (the prisoner) had on a pair of stockings and sleeved jacket belonging to the prosecutor, which he had obtained leave to wear, being himself very scanty of clothes, having only one suit. The prosecutor stated that when he left home, on the morning of the 19th, there were six guinea notes, a twenty-shilling note and a crown-piece belonging to his wife's sister; half-a-crown belonging to his wife, and three half-crowns and three shillings belonging to himself. The money was deposited in a box in the parlour, which was kept locked, and his wife had the key. The half-crown belonging to his wife had been in her possession a great many years, was of the coinage of William and Mary, and was marked with the initial letters of her maiden name, "M. P."

He stated that on his return from the market, in the dusk of the evening, he was much surprised, the day being wet, to find the cattle out in the yard, which, at so late an hour, was a circumstance uncommon. As attending to the cattle was the business of his wife and wife's sister, he called out, but got no answer. After taking his mare out of the cart he went into the house, and found his sister-in-law sitting on a chair, with her head resting on the table. After raising her head, and placing it on his arm, he wiped her face, which was smeared with blood, and exclaimed: "My dear jewel, what is the matter with you?" He received no answer; but as she was an infirm woman, and Wood, the

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prisoner, and his wife not being present, he imagined that, his sister-in-law having had a fall on the floor, they had gone out, one to inform the neighbours, and the other for surgical assistance; consequently he was not much alarmed, as he had not yet perceived the state she was in, only perceiving the wound on her forehead. He went out and took care of the cattle, but was absent not more than three or four minutes. When he returned he lighted a candle, and discovered his sister-in-law to be snoring in her blood, with which the table was covered. He raised her up, and she opened her eyes; he thought she knew him, and seemed anxious to speak to him. He perceived her little finger was nearly cut off, hanging only by a small part of the inner skin, became much alarmed, and concluded she had been murdered. He now became anxious for the safety of his wife, and, after a little searching, found her in the barn. She was extended on the floor, with her head bleeding much; she appeared nearly dead, and was speechless. He said her skull was very much cracked, and her head as soft as a boiled turnip. His house being at some distance from any other, he went in search of help to his nearest neighbours, exclaiming "Murder!"

Mr Scott, magistrate of Annan, heard of the prisoner, on the 20th of January, being at the Tolbooth public-house, and went to have him secured. Robert Elliot, the constable of Annan, was with him. The witness (Mr Scott) asked him if he had purchased a watch, which he denied. He immediately ordered him to the jail, and went with him for the purpose of examination. He was there searched, and in the inside of his hat-lining a watch was found. He was then ordered to deliver up every other article of property of which he was possessed; when he put his hand in his waistcoat-pocket and took out a shilling, a watch-chain, some halfpence and a knife, and said he had nothing else about him. On further searching him there were found in his watch-pocket a crown-piece, four half-crown pieces and thirty shillings. One half-crown piece was of the coinage of William and Mary, marked with "M. P. 1802." All these

JAMES INWOOD

articles were put in a paper in the presence of the prisoner, and sealed. Two hours afterwards he was taken before Sir William Douglas, Messrs Greencroft, Hodgson, Forest and witness, Justices of the Peace, and examined. The prisoner then made a confession.

The jury, after a few minutes, gave in their verdict— guilty ; upon which the judge immediately passed sentence of death. He was executed the next day.

JAMES INWOOD

Convicted of Manslaughter in killing William Goodman, who had been detected in robbing a Fishery, October, 1808

AT the assizes for Hertford, 1808, James Inwood was indicted for the wilful murder of William Goodman, by giving him several mortal wounds with a cutlass, at Rickmansworth, in this county.

Mr Common Serjeant, as counsel for the prosecution, stated that the prisoner rented a fishery at Rickmansworth, and on the morning of the 6th of October the deceased William Goodman went to the water, no doubt for the purpose of illegally taking the fish. The prisoner and four other men were on the watch, and about four o'clock in the morning they discovered the deceased, who, finding that persons were there, plunged into the water and swam up the stream to a little eyot, or osier bank, where he evidently meant to land. At this time some of the party were on one side of the stream, and some on the other ; and the prisoner, with a cutlass in his hand, ran round to the osier island. As it was dark, the rest of the party could not see what passed ; but it seemed that the prisoner gave the deceased several wounds, notwithstanding which he escaped, and got home to his own cottage, when he expired on the following Saturday.

Thomas Tochfield said he was a labourer at Rickmansworth. On the night between the 5th and 6th of October he and the prisoner, together with Davy, Ellingham and

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two others, went to watch the fishery of the prisoner. About four o'clock in the morning the prisoner, who was outside the weir-house, gave them notice that someone was near the wheels, and desired them to wait until he should get to work. As soon as they thought the man had begun, they all sallied out, and the man, finding himself discovered, plunged into the middle of the stream and swam up against it. Inwood, Davy and Ellingham were on the north side of the river, and two others on the south side ; they called to him to surrender, but he made them no answer. Inwood, the prisoner, said he would run round the osier island, to prevent his escaping that way. In a short time he heard a splashing in the water, and Inwood called out that the man had got him in the water, and would drown him if they did not make haste to assist him. They went round and found that the prisoner had been in the water, but the man had escaped. They then went back to the weir-house, and there they found the jacket which the man had left behind him, with a basket and a bag. By the jacket they discovered that the man in the water must have been Goodman, as they had often seen him wear it.

Ellingham, Davy and Walker, other persons on the watch, gave the same account of the transaction ; but it also appeared that the eels were confined in baskets, and that the deceased came not to catch fish, but to take away those already caught.

The learned judge here observed that it made a considerable difference in the case, as it was clear he came to commit not merely a trespass but a felony.

The prisoner, being called upon for his defence, said that the deceased, in getting up the bank, pulled him into the water, and he was afraid he would be drowned, and that what he did was in his own defence.

The learned judge stated the law to the jury to be, that if any one person suspected a felony about to be committed on his property, he might take to his assistance a peace officer, as was done here ; and the wrongdoer, if he did not surrender when called upon, might be killed if he could

JOHN RYAN AND MATHEW KEARINGE

not otherwise be taken. If they thought the prisoner could not take the deceased without killing him, it would be justifiable homicide.

The jury found him guilty of manslaughter, and he was sentenced to one month's imprisonment.

JOHN RYAN AND MATHEW KEARINGE

Executed in Ireland, for Arson and Murder, 1808

AT the Lent Clonmell Assizes for the year 1808 John Ryan and Mathew Kearinge were indicted for the murder of David Bourke; in a second count with the murder of John Dougherty; in a third, with setting fire to the house of Laurence Bourke; and in a fourth, with maliciously firing at Laurence Bourke, with an intent to kill him. They pleaded the general issue.

After the Solicitor-General had opened the case he called Laurence Bourke, the prosecutor, who stated that on the night of the 11th of October, between the hours of ten and eleven o'clock, he was informed by his servant that there were a number of men in arms advancing towards the house. In consequence of this information he went to the window and saw the prisoners, with several others, all armed, surrounding his house. They desired him to open the door, but he refused; and they then fired several shots in through the different windows. In the house were Dougherty, the deceased, a man who was servant to the witness, and witness's wife and child. They were armed, but had no ammunition but what the guns were loaded with. The prisoners and the party, finding they could not get into the house, set it on fire; and the witness heard the prisoner Ryan say: "Take it easy, boys; you will see what boltings we shall have by and by." The witness's wife and child then went to the window and called out to Ryan (who was her relation) not to burn the house, but he replied with an oath that he would; and a shot was fired at her, which, though it did not take effect, frightened her so much that

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she and her child fell out of the window, and were seized by the prisoner Kearinge ; but they afterwards fortunately made their escape. The house was now falling in flames about the witness's head, and he therefore opened the door and ran out. Several shots were fired at him, but he escaped them, and made his way to the house of his father, David Bourke. In his flight he fired his piece and killed one of Ryan's party. When witness arrived at his father's house he found he had gone to the assistance of the witness ; and on returning to the place where his house stood, in search of his father, he found that Ryan and his party had gone, and his father's corpse was lying about twelve yards from the smoking ruins of his dwelling.

Winifred Kennedy and other witnesses were examined, who corroborated the testimony of Bourke, and proved that the deceased John Dougherty was burned in Bourke's house. It was also proved that the whole of Ryan's party were entertained at dinner by him that day, and they all left his house armed, for the purpose of attacking Bourke.

On the part of the prisoner Ryan an alibi was attempted to be proved by a woman who lived with him, which entirely failed ; and, after a very minute charge from the learned judge, the jury brought in a verdict of guilty against both the prisoners. They were executed accordingly.

THE REV. ABRAHAM ASHWORTH

*Sentenced in 1808 to Three Years' Imprisonment in
Lancaster Jail, for ill-treating his Female Pupils*

THE REV. ABRAHAM ASHWORTH, a clergyman and schoolmaster, at Newton, near Manchester, was brought up to receive the judgment of the Court of King's Bench, at Westminster, in 1808, he having been convicted at the last Lancaster Assizes on two indictments : for assaulting Mary Ann Gillibrand and Mary Barlow, his scholars ; and for taking such indecent liberties with their persons as greatly to hurt and injure them.

THE REV. ABRAHAM ASHWORTH

Mr Scarlett addressed the Court in mitigation. The punishment, he said, the Court would feel it due to justice to inflict would be of little additional consequence to the defendant, as his ruin was already consummated; but he had a wife and six children, who had been virtuously bred and educated, and it was on their account he implored the Court not to inflict a punishment on the defendant that would render him infamous.

Mr Serjeant Cockell said it was not his wish to bruise the bended reed, yet it was necessary that an example should be made of the defendant. He was a clergyman and a teacher of youth; and the prosecutors, who had acted from the most laudable motives, had abundant reasons for what they had done. They felt themselves irresistibly called upon to check the practices imputed to the defendant, and which there was too much reason for believing he had indulged in for a considerable time past.

Mr Justice Grose, in passing sentence, addressed the defendant to the following effect: "You have been convicted of an assault upon a child of very tender years; the narrative of your conduct is horrible to hear and horrible to reflect upon. The aggravations of your offence, I am sorry to say, are multifarious. The object of your brutality was a child committed to your care and instruction, and you are a clergyman and a teacher—a man grey in years, and possessing a large family. In looking to the class of misdemeanours, I know of none so horrible as the one of which you have been convicted. Of your guilt it is impossible to doubt, and that guilt is rendered more heinous by your professing to inculcate the doctrines of a religion which you have so little practised. Instead of protecting the child from the contamination of the world, you exposed her to your own licentiousness, and sought to corrupt her mind. I am shocked at seeing a clergyman standing to receive sentence for such an offence." Mr Justice Grose then proceeded to pass sentence, and adjudged that the defendant should be imprisoned in Lancaster Jail for three years, being eighteen months for each conviction.

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The Court observed that the fear of a greater punishment befalling him¹ prevented them from inflicting that of the pillory.

JOHN NICHOLLS

A Wholesale Bank-Note Forger, convicted at the January Sessions at the Old Bailey, 1809, and executed before Newgate

JOHN NICHOLLS, a tradesman, of Birmingham, was capitally indicted at the Old Bailey, January, 1809, for putting off and disposing of forged bank-notes, knowing them to be such, with intent to defraud the Governor and Company of the Bank of England. One note in particular, for five pounds, No. 7484, was charged in the indictment, and alleged to have been put off by the prisoner, with the guilty knowledge imputed to him.

On the 25th of November an Italian, named Vincent Alessi, who lodged at the Lemon Tree, in the Haymarket, and affected the exterior of a foreigner of distinction, was detected in putting off a forged five-pound bank-note at the house of a Mr Taylor, a publican, in Holborn. Upon inquiry it was discovered that he had put off another five-pound note of the same manufacture while prosecuting an amour with a Miss Neads, in Soho, and that the note was detected by Mrs Dearlove, to whom it was afterwards tendered in payment for some wine. On searching his lodgings more counterfeit notes were found, and it was suspected that he was connected with some wholesale predators. He was in consequence interrogated as to the fact, and he immediately confessed that he had bought the notes of John Nicholls, who lived at Birmingham, and had given him six shillings for a one-pound note, twelve shillings for a two-pound note and thirty shillings for a five-pound note. The solicitor of the bank, thinking it would best serve the ends of public justice, advised that Alessi should be

¹ It was apprehended that he would, if pilloried, have been there killed by the enraged populace.

JOHN NICHOLLS

admitted an evidence for the Crown, and through his means the wholesale dealer convicted. This was acceded to on the part of the Crown, and means were instantly taken to detect Nicholls. This could only be done through the medium of Alessi, who, on the 10th of December, his own detection being kept secret, wrote to the prisoner, informing him that he was about to depart for America, and that he should want twenty dozen of "candlesticks" marked No. 5, twenty-four dozen marked No. 1, and four dozen marked No. 2. The word "candlesticks" was understood between the parties to mean bank-notes, and the figure mark, the value of the notes. The prisoner wrote for answer that he should be in town the following week, and if that would be in time he begged a line to that effect. Alessi wrote a second letter, saying that the following week would do exceedingly well, as he did not mean to leave England till after Christmas.

This interview being arranged, four police officers stationed themselves in a room at the Lemon Tree, adjoining that in which Alessi was to receive the prisoner, so as to see and hear everything that passed. The prisoner was punctual to his engagement. He brought with him the notes, and took six shillings in the pound in payment for them. When that transaction was finished Alessi put on his hat—the agreed signal for the officers to advance—and they rushed in and secured the prisoner. At first he said he had found the parcel containing the notes in the street, and then that he had received them from a friend at Birmingham. On searching the prisoner other forged notes were found, and the letter written by Alessi giving the order. The notes given by the prisoner to Alessi on the above occasion were precisely of the same manufacture as that stated in the indictment—and which Alessi said he had bought of the prisoner—and as those found at Alessi's lodgings.

Alessi underwent a severe cross-examination by Mr Gurney, the prisoner's counsel. He said he had been backwards and forwards between Italy and England for the last fifteen years, but that he had been only five months and a half resident this last trip, during which time he had followed

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no other business than that of putting off forged bank-notes. He met the prisoner at Birmingham, to which place he went to purchase hardware, as an adventure to Spain. The prisoner told him the bank-notes in question would pass current out of England. He knew persons were hanged for forging bank-notes, but did not understand that they were for passing them off. He could not say whether he had betrayed the prisoner from a sense of public justice or to save his life. He did not think he should be hanged. He confided in hope, and it was the last thing a man should lose. He had seen another man at Birmingham who also was a dealer in counterfeit notes.

Baron Thompson summed up the evidence, and the jury instantly found the prisoner guilty.

He appeared to have made up his mind, from the time of his apprehension, for the worst fate that could await him. On his trial he conducted himself with great fortitude; and with resignation from his condemnation to the moment he was launched into eternity.

MARGARET CRIMES *alias* BARRINGTON

*Executed before Newgate, 22nd of February, 1809, for taking
a False Oath, and thereby obtaining Letters of Adminis-
tration to the Effects of a Soldier*

AT the Old Bailey, on Saturday, the 14th of January, 1809, Margaret Barrington was capitally indicted for falsely taking an oath before Dr Coote, surrogate to the judge of the Prerogative Court, Doctors' Commons, to obtain letters of administration, in order to receive twenty-four pounds, one shilling and sixpence prize-money due to one Thomas Rotten, late a private in the 87th Regiment, and a supernumerary on board the *Eurus* frigate at the time she made various captures in her voyage to the West Indies. The prisoner appeared to have been connected with two persons of the names of Vaughan and Knight, the former of whom was hanged, and the latter transported for life, for

HENRY HUNT

similar offences to that with which she was charged. In her defence she persisted in the story of her marriage to Thomas Rotten : the only thing she could be blamed for, she said, was presenting a fabricated certificate, which she confessed Knight made for her ; but she was told she would not get the prize-money without it, and at Dumfries they kept no register of marriages.

The judge summed up with great humanity ; and the jury, after consulting together for some time, found a verdict of guilty. She was sentenced to death, and ordered for execution on the 22nd of February.

On a motion of her counsel she was again put to the bar, and pleaded, in stay of execution, that she was quick with child ; upon which a jury of matrons were empanelled, who retired with the prisoner and Mr Box, assisted by a surgeon of eminence, who were also sworn. After being absent about fifteen minutes they returned a verdict that she was not quick with child. Whereupon the recorder, in a most solemn and pathetic manner, exhorted the prisoner to make the best use in her power of the short time allotted to her in this life. The unfortunate woman was taken from the bar in convulsions, but next day appeared resigned to her fate.

HENRY HUNT

A Driver of the Norwich Mail. Convicted of stealing a Gold Watch sent by his Coach, 8th of April, 1809

AT the Old Bailey, on Monday, 8th of April, Henry Hunt was put to the bar charged with having stolen a gold watch, with a metal outside case, and two gold seals, valued at sixteen guineas, the property of a Mr James Bennett. There were other counts in the indictment charging this property to belong to Messrs Gooch & Co., watchmakers, and Messrs Boulton & Co., coach-owners.

It appeared from the evidence of Mr Gooch that he got the watch in question from Mr Bennett, who resided at Norwich, and that on the 5th of March he booked it at the

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coach office of Messrs Boulton & Co. for that city, and paid booking. Mr Bennett proved that it never came to hand.

It appeared that the prisoner was the driver of the Norwich mail, by which coach the parcel containing this property was sent, and that on the 11th of March he went to a public-house, known by the sign of the Bunch of Grapes, in Bow Street, and there stated that he wanted to have a watch, which he had lately bought, either altered or exchanged for a silver watch, and wished the landlord to find out the value of it. The landlord took the watch for that purpose, and the first person to whom he made mention of the fact, after showing it to a watchmaker, was an officer belonging to the public office, Bow Street, of the name of Salmon, who ultimately apprehended the prisoner, when he subsequently came to town, the moment he alighted at the Golden Cross, Charing Cross. The prisoner at first said he had bought it from a person known at Lad Lane by the nickname of "Long Jack," and the officer accompanied him thither ; but it turned out to be a gross falsehood.

A witness of the name of Woodbridge was called to prove that he saw the prisoner buy the watch from a tall man in Lombard Street, whilst the coach was waiting for the mail delivery. But not only was the account which he gave of himself problematical, but his story as to the fact was so gross and contradictory that he was subsequently committed to take his trial for wilful and corrupt perjury, and he was immediately conveyed into Newgate by the officers of the court.

The jury, without hesitation, found the prisoner guilty. The indictment, however, was, through the lenity of the prosecutors, only maintained to the extent of larceny, by which means the prisoner was saved from a capital conviction ; but the Court had the power of transporting him for seven years. He was sentenced to transportation for seven years.

WILLIAM PROUDLOVE AND GEORGE GLOVER

*Executed at Chester, 28th of May, 1809, for Salt-Stealing,
after a First Attempt to hang them had failed*

IN the county of Cheshire were several salt-works; and these men, it appeared, were connected with a gang of villains, who made a practice of committing depredations on those valuable manufactories, and conveying the salt to Liverpool and Manchester, where they found a ready sale for it.

The works at Odd Rode had been frequently plundered by these men; and when they were detected by an excise officer they fired a pistol at him, in order to facilitate their escape. They, however, missed their aim, were taken, tried, and sentenced to death. They confessed the robbery, but solemnly denied the act of shooting at the exciseman, which they laid to the charge of one Robert Beech, one of the gang not then apprehended.

On the morning of their execution they received the Sacrament with much apparent devotion, in which they were joined by the wife of Proudlove, the mother of Glover, and four more convicts under sentence of death. They were then consigned to the custody of the sheriff, and walked with firm steps to the cart in waiting to receive them. After they had passed through the principal streets of the city of Chester they were carried to the place of execution, which was covered with black cloth.

We wish we could here end our painful report of the sad scene which followed the dropping of the platform; but alas, horrid to relate, both ropes snapped a few inches from their necks, and the poor sufferers fell upon the terrace.

The impression and shock upon the feelings of a multitude of spectators at this moment cannot be described. Human sensibility was harrowed to the very soul; and the moans, cries and tears of the people loudly spoke the poignancy of their hearts. Stranger yet to tell, the miserable men appeared

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to feel little either in body or mind from the shock they had received : they lamented it had happened, and spoke of it as a disappointment in going instantly to heaven.

They were conducted back to the jail, to which they walked with equal coolness, and only requested that the chaplain might again come to them. This was complied with ; and, stronger ropes being procured, about three o'clock in the afternoon, having passed the intermediate time in prayer, they were reconducted to the fatal drop ; and, perfectly resigned to their fate, were launched into eternity.¹

CAPTAIN JOHN SUTHERLAND

Commander of the British Armed Transport, The Friends.

*Executed at Execution Dock, on the Banks of the Thames,
29th of June, 1809, for the Murder of his Cabin-Boy*

AT the Admiralty Sessions, on Friday, the 22nd of June, 1809, before Sir William Scott, President, and Sir Nash Grose, one of the judges of the Court of King's Bench, John Sutherland stood capitally indicted for the wilful murder of William Richardson, a boy thirteen years old, on the previous 5th of November, on board a British transport ship, named *The Friends*, of which the prisoner

¹ “A circumstance of this affecting nature happened some years ago, on the execution of William Snow *alias* Skitch, for burglary, and James Wayborn, for a highway robbery at Exeter. These wretched men had been turned off a few seconds, when the rope whereby Skitch was suspended slipped from the gallows and he fell to the ground. He soon rose and heard the sorrowful exclamations of the spectators, to whom he calmly addressed these words : ‘Good people, do not be hurried ; I am not hurried : I can wait a little.’ The executioner wishing to lengthen the rope, Skitch calmly waited until his companion was dead, when the rope was taken from the dead man’s arms, in order to complete the execution of Skitch, who was a second time launched from the scaffold, amidst the tears of thousands.”—*Historical Magazine*, 1789.

From the same authority we also find that, on the execution of W. Combes, W. Harvey and T. Hunt, owing to the carelessness or ignorance of the hangman, two of the unhappy sufferers fell to the ground after being tied up ; and, to augment their horrors, witnessed the last agonies of their unfortunate companion.

Playing cards with a smiling kid from 'Boyz'



CAPTAIN JOHN SUTHERLAND

was captain, in the River Tagus, and within the jurisdiction of the High Court of Admiralty.

Sir Christopher Robinson stated the case on the part of the Crown.

The first witness called was John Thompson, a negro mariner, who, being sworn and examined by the Attorney-General, stated that he was a seaman on board *The Friends*, in the Tagus, at anchor about a mile from Lisbon, on the 5th of November; that he had been, about a month previously, engaged by the prisoner, in Lisbon; that on the day above stated the captain and mate were on shore, as were also the other two seamen belonging to the ship's crew, and no person left on board but himself and the deceased, a boy of thirteen, who usually attended on the prisoner. About eight o'clock in the evening the prisoner came on board, and immediately went down to his cabin, and called the deceased down to him. A few minutes afterwards the deceased came upon deck and told the witness to go down also, which he did. The Captain asked him how it could be managed to keep watch on deck for the night, the mate and the other two seamen being on shore. The witness answered he could keep watch until twelve o'clock. The prisoner agreed to this, and desired the witness to be sure to call him at twelve, and in the meantime not to suffer any boat to come alongside without letting him know. He then desired the witness to go on deck and send down the boy, which he did.

About five minutes afterwards witness heard the boy cry out loudly to him; he called him by his name, Jack Thompson. The witness did not go down immediately, for he supposed the Captain was only beating the boy, *as usual*. The boy continued to call out loudly several times; and at last the witness went down, and saw the Captain standing over the boy, with a naked dirk or dagger in his hand, which he waved to and fro. The boy was lying on the cabin floor, and he immediately said to the witness: "Jack Thompson, look here: here Captain Sutherland has stabbed me"; and immediately lifted up his shirt and showed him a bleeding wound upon the left side of his belly, near his groin, and his entrails

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hanging out. The prisoner said nothing at the moment ; he heard what the boy said. On the witness turning about to leave the cabin the prisoner said to him : " Jack, I know I have done wrong." The witness, who was not above three minutes in the cabin, answered : " I know very well you have " ; and immediately returned to the deck and hailed the next ship to him, which was the *Elizabeth* transport, for assistance. The *Elizabeth* not being able to send a surgeon, the prisoner insisted on going ashore with witness and finding one. There a British and a Portuguese soldier came up to them, to whom the witness told what had happened. The Captain then came back with the witness to the ship. When they came on board they found that two surgeons had been there, dressed the wounds of the deceased, and put him into bed. He was removed the next morning on board the *Audacious*, as were also the prisoner and the witness. At the time Captain Sutherland came on board, after going to seek the surgeon, the mate, who had meanwhile returned, asked him what he had to do with such a weapon—referring to the dirk. The prisoner answered that he would never hurt anybody else with it, and then threw the dirk overboard. After the witness was on board the *Audacious* he heard the prisoner say to the deceased he was very sorry for what he had done ; but he did not hear the deceased make any answer. He heard him repeat his sorrow at another time. The witness was on board the *Audacious* when the boy died, nine days afterwards.

Other witnesses were called, and the jury, after a short consultation, returned their verdict of guilty. Sir William Scott then passed upon him the awful sentence of the law, which was, that he be hanged at Execution Dock, and his body afterwards delivered to the surgeons for dissection.

The unhappy man, who had a wife and five children, retired from the bar greatly agitated, and was so overcome as to require the support of the attendants. He was about forty years old.

At the rising of the Court Sir William Scott signified to the sheriffs that the execution must necessarily be deferred

HENRY WHITE AND JAMES SMITH

until the following Thursday, on account of the state of the tide. On that day, accordingly, this unfortunate man was launched into eternity.

HENRY WHITE AND JAMES SMITH

Well-equipped and armed Burglars, who were sentenced to Death at the Old Bailey, 3rd of July, 1809

HENRY WHITE and James Smith were tried at the Old Bailey, on the 3rd of July, 1809, on an indictment for burglariously breaking into and entering the dwelling-house of Francis Sitwell, Esq., of Durweston Street, St Marylebone, with intent to steal.

A watchman deposed that, being alarmed about the hour of two in the morning with an unusual noise which came from Mr Sitwell's house, he went towards it, when a man, who afterwards turned out to be the prisoner White, suddenly ran off, and he followed him. White was soon overtaken, and Smith was also secured. In the direction in which they ran there were found some pick-lock keys, in bundles, a dark lantern, an iron crow and a loaded pistol.

On examining Mr Sitwell's house it was discovered that a hole had been bored exactly under the lock, by a centre-bit, large enough to admit a man's arm, the door unlocked, the lower bolt forced back, and the door opened, having been forced by means of the crow, as they could not reach the upper bolt from the hole made with the centre-bit. They were found guilty, and received sentence of death.

WILLIAM HEWITT

Fined Five Hundred Pounds, and imprisoned, at the Old Bailey Sessions, in October, 1809, for enticing an English Artificer to leave his Country and emigrate to the United States of North America

WILLIAM HEWITT was indicted at the Old Bailey sessions, in October, 1809, for enticing an artificer, of the name of John Hutchinson, to leave the country and emigrate to the United States of America.

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Mr Hughes, a dyer, in Bunhill Row, stated that Hutchinson was in his service, under contract, as a working mechanic, skilled in the dyeing of cotton, and that on the 30th of August the prisoner, by promises of future reward, and the advance immediately of a sum of money, amounting to about twenty-two pounds, engaged him to leave his country and accompany him to America, there to be employed in the cotton manufactory. His evidence was corroborated by several other witnesses, and the prisoner called some in his defence, but they rather confirmed than disproved the case on the part of the prosecution.

He was convicted, and the Court sentenced him, under the Act of Parliament, to pay a fine of five hundred pounds, and to suffer three months' imprisonment.

Hutchinson, the servant, was likewise convicted under the same Act, for engaging to leave the country, and was ordered to find bail to remain in it.

EDWARD EDWARDS

A Young but Artful Thief, transported for stealing privately from a Shop in London, October, 1809

THIS offender was not eighteen, and small for his age. He was convicted at the Old Bailey, October sessions, 1809, of privately stealing, in the shop of Mr Wilson, a jeweller, in Houndsditch, a gold brooch set with pearls, a gold ring, set in like manner, and some other articles of jewellery.

Mr Wilson stated that the prisoner came to his shop on Friday evening and desired to see some fancy articles. He selected a number, to the value of fourteen pounds, but contrived to steal several articles, which were immediately missed; and the prosecutor, on searching the prisoner, found the articles, but not one penny of money about him. He immediately sent for a constable and gave him in charge; and it was alleged by some persons that the constable, by direction of the prosecutor, had carried the

JAMES AND SARAH MARLBOROUGH

prisoner on board the tender. The prosecutor expressed a wish not to prosecute the unfortunate youth, in mere tenderness to the feelings of his father, who was an honest, industrious man; he rather wished him to be sent to serve his country, but denied having given any directions to send him to the tender.

The constable denied that he had taken him there.

Alderman Newnham deprecated the idea of sending such a person to disgrace his Majesty's service,¹ as the only service for which such persons were adapted was Botany Bay. He was tried at the last Old Bailey sessions for a similar offence, and as he now seemed quite incorrigible, no course remained but to send him out of the country.

JAMES MARLBOROUGH, AND SARAH, HIS WIFE

*Imprisoned for Gross Cruelty to their Child,
8th of December, 1809*

AT the sessions held at Hicks's Hall, for the county of Middlesex, on Friday, the 8th of December, 1809, James Marlborough and Sarah, his wife, were charged with most inhuman and cruel treatment towards Mary Marlborough, the infant child of James Marlborough by a former wife.

The defendant, James Marlborough, had two children

¹ It had long been a practice to send notorious felons and persons guilty of picking pockets from police offices to serve in the navy. This was not only unlawful, but our brave and honest seamen were disgraced by being compelled to associate with such characters. Commanders of ships were also under the necessity of imposing severe discipline to prevent the depredations of those unprincipled miscreants whenever they formed a part of their crew, and the good men in general suffered privations for the conduct of the bad. Thus the service, honourable in itself, was brought into contempt in the opinion of seamen belonging to the merchants. Five delinquents guilty of felony, but suffered to escape by the humanity of their prosecutors on condition of serving the King, were once sent, by order of the sitting alderman, on board the tender. After the constables had conveyed them on board the officer immediately ordered them to be taken back, observing: "We don't want thieves here."

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by his first wife; Sarah was his second wife. From the moment of her marriage she practised every species of barbarity towards both of them, especially towards the little girl, whose daily and nightly shrieks and piteous cries not only annoyed but alarmed all the neighbours within hearing.

On the 9th of October, 1809, the child was heard to weep most piteously in the front cellar, a place known by the neighbours to be of the most filthy and hideous description, and where the defendants kept a pig. About twelve o'clock at night some forced their way into the house, and insisted upon seeing both the children. They searched the cellar, but could not find anything there but gloomy darkness, dampness and a pig. They then proceeded upstairs, and in the back parlour found the child lying under the bed, with both her eyes beaten black, bruised from head to foot, and almost starved—a shocking spectacle, showing a degree of cruelty and inhumanity never before witnessed. On this the children were taken to the parish officers, and had been in their hands ever since. The defendants were taken into custody, and the woman then acknowledged that she had ill-used the child.

The little boy told a tale of woe that would have harrowed the hardest heart. He fully established all the statements of the counsel for the prosecution. He said that his stepmother was in the frequent habit of plunging his little sister into a tub of cold water; that she used to beat her with sticks, with rods and with a toasting-fork, and that the two black eyes which she had when found under the bed were given her on that day by her stepmother with a spoon.

The jury, without a moment's hesitation, found both the prisoners guilty.

It turned out in the course of the inquiry that James Marlborough had beat his wife for her ill-treatment of his children.

The Court sentenced the woman to one year's imprisonment in the house of correction, Coldbath Fields, and the man to fourteen days in Newgate—a mild punishment for such barbarity.

GEORGE WEBB

*Son of a Clergyman, and a Notorious Burglar. Executed on
Shooter's Hill, near London, 1809*

GEORGE WEBB was born near Bromsgrove, in Worcestershire, and, though the son of a clergyman, became a most notorious depredator. He went to London, and there got acquainted with Richard Russel, John Leonard White and Edward Egerton, men of infamous character. He then went to Woolwich and worked as a lumper, and there married a young woman of the name of Cocks, and commenced as smuggler. About Deptford he was known by the name of Smith. He was committed for an assault, and tried at the Quarter Sessions at Maidstone, where he received sentence of imprisonment, to pay a fine of five pounds, and to find bondsmen for his good behaviour. He lay there six months after his sentence had expired for want of sureties, and then volunteered his services to the justices to serve in the West Kent Militia. His services were accepted, and he was sworn in at Tonbridge.

He joined the regiment, remained with it five or six months, and then deserted. He was taken up and brought back to Maidstone as a deserter, and was discharged by order of the Secretary of War, taken to the regiment, and punished.

Soon after this he again deserted, and took an apartment on Blackheath, in the neighbourhood of which, many depredations having been committed, he was apprehended and taken to Bow Street, with Richard Russel and Sarah Russel, on suspicion of feloniously and burglariously breaking into and entering the dwelling-house of Thomas Ebenezer Taylor, situated at New Cross, and stealing a pair of pistols, an opera-glass and divers other articles.

They also stood charged with breaking into and entering the dwelling-house of William Shadbolt, in the parish of Deptford, and stealing divers articles of plate, several silver coins, seven shirts, etc. Also with breaking into and entering

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the dwelling-house of Joseph Warner, in the parish of Eltham, and stealing six window-curtains and divers other articles. When taken into custody it was discovered Webb had been at Birmingham. He had sent his mother a letter, a copy of which is as follows :—

MY DEAR MOTHER,—Ingratitude, mingled with shame, almost dares me to either write or see you again: however, I have this assurance and full determination of seeing you, please God, and with your approbation, on Wednesday next, at the Hen and Chickens, New Street, Birmingham, with my sister or sisters. It is my intention, please the Almighty nothing happens, to be there on the before-mentioned day, and I hope you will give me the meeting there, if possible you can make it convenient. Do not let the expense be a hindrance, as that's of no consequence. I will defray the whole. So you will, I hope, excuse this short epistle, and forward an answer by return of post, to oblige your ungrateful son,

BLACKHEATH.

GEORGE WEBB.

P.S.—Direct for Mr Webb, near the Hare and Billet, Blackheath, Kent.

The magistrates at Bow Street now thought it advisable to dispatch William Adkins, an officer, to Bordesley, near Birmingham, the residence of his mother, who, on his arrival there, searched her house for silver tablespoons and other goods stolen from the house of General Twiss, of Southend, near Eltham, in Kent. Mr Payn and Mr Eagle, constables, assisted him in the search. When he entered Mrs Webb's house he found therein Mrs Webb and her two daughters, Mrs Knot, a lodger, and the servant-girl. He asked Mrs Webb if she had a son who lived in Blackheath. She said she believed she had. He then asked her if he had not been down to see her lately. She said he had. He then asked her if he had not brought a box or trunk with plated goods in it. She replied he had brought a box, but there was nothing but clothes in it; and what he had brought he

GEORGE WEBB

had taken away with him. He then told Mrs Webb he was an officer from Bow Street; that he and Mr Payn and Mr Eagle had a warrant to search the house; that her son was in custody on a very serious charge, and if he had left anything with her, or if there was anything in her house which he had brought down with him, he begged her to mention them, as otherwise, if anything were found, it might be of serious consequence to her; for, as to him (her son), no evidence was wanting to convict him. Mrs Webb said there was nothing left there at all. He again begged of her, if there was anything, to inform him of it. She hesitated a while, and then said there was a pair of pistols, which were in a box in the back kitchen. The witness took possession of them, and also a pair of patent silver clasps or latchets, and wrote his initials on them. He then asked her if there was anything more, and she positively said there was not. Miss Ann Webb came up to him in the passage, and he asked her if there was anything more, and she said there was; that she had a purse and a smelling-bottle in her pocket; and she immediately gave him a silver-net purse, a smelling-bottle and an opera-glass. He then asked her if there was not something else; and she said yes there was: her sister had a purse also and a pocket-book. He then went to Mrs M'Gaa, and she acknowledged to have received from her brother a purse and a pocket-book, and went upstairs and fetched a silver-net purse, a pocket-book, a pencil and pencil-case, and gave them to the officer. He then asked Miss Ann Webb if there were not some plated goods. She replied: "Why, has not my mother told you?" He said: "Yes, but not where they are." Mrs M'Gaa then took him to a shed in the garden and showed him where they were; and out of a rabbit-pen in that shed he took four plated stands and two silver saltspoons, which were covered with hay in the pen. He then asked her if there was anything else. She said: "Has my mother mentioned a table-cloth?" Adkins said: "No." Mrs M'Gaa then took him upstairs and showed him a drawer, out of which he took a large damask

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table-cloth. He then said he must search them; and on that Mrs Webb pulled out of her pocket a shagreen mathematical instrument case and instruments, which she said she had forgotten, and a pocket-book of yellow leather, mounted with silver, which she gave to him. Mrs M'Gaa afterwards gave him another pair of silver saltspoons. All these goods Mrs Webb said her son had given to them. He also took from Miss Ann Webb seven pieces of old silver coin and one piece of gold coin; also a silver cross set with garnets, and an enamelled trinket mounted with brass. He likewise found in the cupboard in the parlour a silver pepper-box.

The next morning he found in a drawer, in the front chamber, a red morocco writing-case, which Mrs Webb and her daughters said they had no knowledge of. The widow, on examination, afterwards confessed that her son, George Webb, about twenty-eight years old, came to see her that day fortnight, in order to sign a conveyance of his interest in an estate to her, which she had contracted to sell to Sir Harry Featherstone Haugh; that he told her he resided at Blackheath, had married a wife with a fortune of nine hundred and fifty pounds, was in the wholesale tea trade, and doing very well; that he should have it in his power to assist her if she wanted it, and to allow her fifty pounds a year; that he brought his clothes in a box; and when he first came into the house he told her he had brought her a small present, and went upstairs with his box, and brought down two pairs of plated bottle-stands and two pairs of silver saltspoons, and a silver-net purse and a table-cloth, which he gave to her; that soon after he gave to his sister, Mrs M'Gaa, a silver-net purse and a silver pencil-case and penknife; and to his sister Ann he gave a smelling-bottle, a yellow leather purse mounted with silver, and an opera-glass. That as soon as his brother Robert came home from work he gave him, in her presence, a pair of brass pistols, which he said he had designed for his brother Charles; that he also gave Robert a pair of patent silver latches, and a mathematical instrument case, as he thought Robert was in a way of trade in which they might be of service

RICHARD TURNER

to him; that he said he had given five guineas for the pistols and two pounds, ten shillings for the mathematical instrument case; that she (the mother) was proud of these articles as a present from her son, and showed them to Mr Allen and Mr Dickenson, and many other neighbours; that in return she gave her son George, before he left Birmingham, a silver watch of his father's, a gold seal and a silver cup. She, however, confessed that, a little before the officers came and searched her house, she had received a letter by the London post, without a signature, and ill spelt, dated 1st of July, 1809, desiring her to put everything out of the house. Fearing from this that her son had done something wrong, she was distressed to the utmost, and put the two pairs of bottle-stands and pair of saltspoons in the rabbit-pen; and that from the same fears, and under the same alarm, she was induced to give the false account she did to Mr Adkins respecting the things her son George had brought to her house.

The stolen property being thus ascertained, the suspected housebreakers—viz. Webb, Russel, White, Egerton and Sarah Russel, Russel's wife, aged thirty-five—were removed from London to Maidstone, and there tried for the same. Webb and Russel were found guilty, and White, Egerton and Russel's wife were acquitted.

When sentence of death was pronounced, Webb did not appear the least affected.

RICHARD TURNER

*A Young but Artful Swindler, transported to Botany Bay
for Fourteen Years for cheating a Young Lady*

NUMEROUS as have been our reports of the tricks and shifts of swindlers,¹ this youth, had he not been checked in early career, might have proved as dangerous to society as the greatest adept in this species of robbery.

¹ Swindling had of late years become so common a practice in the metropolis that writers for diurnal papers frequently amused themselves in relating adroit performances of this nature in burlesque, pun and hyperbole. One

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At Middlesex Sessions Richard Turner, a very young man, was tried for fraudulently obtaining from Miss Stratford, the daughter of a respectable gentleman in Hatton of these scribbling wits thus made merry with a silly tradesman on being fiddled out of his money :

“ SWINDLING SET TO MUSIC.—A country-looking man lately called at a haberdasher’s shop with a fiddle under his arm, and after purchasing and paying for some trifling articles, which he pretended to want, asked to be allowed to leave his purchase and his fiddle till he did some other business through the town. He had scarcely gone out when in comes an accomplice (as it turned out), who, observing the fiddle, takes it up and tries it, and is quite charmed with it. ‘This is the most charming fiddle I have ever met with ; is it for sale ?—I’d give fifty guineas for that fiddle.’ He was told it was not for sale, but belonged to a countryman who had just left it there till he should make some other calls. ‘When he comes back for it, try and buy it from him—make the best bargain with him you can for yourself ; but whatever you buy it at, I promise to give you fifty guineas for it, and I will call again by and by.’ By and by back comes the countryman for his fiddle. ‘Will you part with that fiddle ?’ says the haberdasher ; ‘I have taken a fancy for it.’ The man answered he had no intention of parting with his fiddle, for he knew it to be a very good one, and did not know if he could get such another. ‘I’ll give you fifty shillings for it,’ said the haberdasher. ‘No, no.’ ‘Five guineas for it,’ said the haberdasher. ‘I’ll not take twenty,’ said the countryman. In short, after a great deal of chapsmanship, the haberdasher got the fiddle at forty guineas ; and a happy man was he, thinking he had made ten guineas by the bargain. But he has been allowed to keep the fiddle, to solace himself for the loss of his money. The fifty-guinea merchant never returned.”

“ On the 13th of October, 1809, a most infamous act of swindling was practised on eight poor infirm widows in the Almshouses, near the New Grove Road, Mile End Road, by a well-dressed man, about five feet two inches high, stoutish made, hair tied, and light green coat. He went to one of the poor pensioners’ houses and thus addressed them : ‘ You are all widows —a lady has left you eight pounds ’ ; he then took their names down, and inquired who would go with him, saying the minister and gentlemen were waiting for them, that they must bring twenty-three shillings in silver to give change, or they could not be paid. One of the poor women borrowed the money at a neighbouring public-house, and a young woman went with him to Stepney Church. He told her to wait at the porch while he went and spoke to the clerk, which she saw him do, and supposed all was right ; but he told the clerk he wanted to put up the banns of marriage, and the clerk desired him to come when the service was over. He came out, told the girl all was right, and she must go with him. He then asked the unsuspecting girl for the twenty-three shillings and decamped with the money. The girl went back to the clerk, where she was soon informed of her mistake, to the no small grief of the poor disappointed pensioners.”

JOHN LUMLEY

Garden, the sum of two pounds, in the following artful manner. His father being a postman at Clapham, he got access to letters sent by post. He opened one letter sent by a young lady named Burford, a teacher in a school at Clapham, directed to Mr Stratford in the common course of correspondence; he suppressed the same and wrote out a copy, interpolated with paragraphs of his own invention, particularly one in which Miss B. was made to say that the bearer was the son of the gardener, and begged Miss Stratford to send by him two pounds, to pay for articles which she had purchased in Bond Street. The prisoner carried the letter, and received from Miss Stratford the money and some articles of dress, which he, instead of bringing to Miss Burford at Clapham, gave to a common prostitute, whom he kept company with in Lambeth. It also appeared that a letter written by Miss Burford to a Miss Cooper in Shrewsbury had been opened in the same manner by the prisoner, and a surreptitious one sent in its stead, desiring an answer to be returned to Miss White, St George's Fields. This circumstance came to Miss Burford's knowledge; and an explanation having taken place between her and Miss Stratford, a Bow Street officer was sent to Miss White's lodgings, in Felix Street, Lambeth, who said he had a letter from Miss Burford. The prisoner appeared to receive it, was immediately taken, and confessed the whole fraud. He was found guilty, and sentenced to fourteen years' transportation.

JOHN LUMLEY

*Imprisoned, and whipped through the Streets of the Borough
of Southwark, for stealing Pewter Pint-Pots from
Public-Houses, January, 1810*

THREE was no petty thieving which had at this time so much increased as stealing the pewter pots wherein London publicans served their customers with porter. Even families had been detected in disgracefully withholding and denying their having publicans' pots in their possession

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when proof had been given that they had not returned them to the owner. To check the severe and increasing losses arising from pot-stealing, which seem nearly incredible, the publicans formed a respectable association in London, as Licensed Victuallers, and brought a Bill before Parliament for the better protection of their property. But the Commons—conceiving, perhaps, the complaint not to be of sufficient magnitude for the interference of the legislative body—threw out the Bill; so that their remedy remained only the law of indictments for petty larceny, and this being troublesome and expensive these meanest of thieves were but seldom prosecuted to conviction.

The publicans attributed the opposition made to their Bill to the pewterers—what envy, even in these grades of society!—and, by way of revenge, the former entered into a resolution to manufacture their own pots.

A meeting of the Licensed Victuallers was held at the Crown and Anchor, in the Strand, pursuant to advertisement, to take into consideration the measures for preventing the depredations committed on their property by the purloining of pewter pots, on the 16th of July, 1812; Mr James Palmer in the chair.

The chairman commented at some length on the opposition given by certain pewterers to their petition, and spoke in terms of *severe reprehension* on the violent manner in which he conceived some of them had conducted themselves while the business was in its progress through the House of Commons. He had not the least doubt but the Bill would be carried in the ensuing sessions. And here he could not help speaking in terms of grateful respect of Sir Thomas Turton, Mr Whitbread, Mr Rose, Sir James Graham, Mr H. Thornton, Mr Sheridan, Mr W. Smith, Mr Wharton and the other Members who advocated their cause and voted for their Bill.

He next proposed a remedy for the evil, and to protect their property, which was highly approved. It was for the establishment of a company among themselves for the manufacture of their own pots, of pure metal, by which

JOHN LUMLEY

the stolen pots could not be remanufactured and resold to themselves again—a proposition to which assent was carried unanimously. Several other resolutions were then moved and agreed to, after which the meeting adjourned.

John Lumley was indicted at the Westminster Sessions, 1810, for stealing a pewter pint-pot, the property of the landlord of the Cart and Horse public-house, Tooley Street; there was also another charge against him for a similar offence—namely, having in his possession a pot belonging to the landlord of the Black Lion; and a third, for stealing two pewter pots, the property of the landlord of the Green Dragon, Bermondsey Street.

It appeared in evidence that as the prisoner passed along Ratcliff Highway, on Wednesday evening, he was observed to drop a pot from under his coat, which a person near him instantly picked up. Perceiving it to belong to a public-house, and a publican in the neighbourhood having recently lost several pots, the man followed the prisoner, secured him, and took him to the house in question. A constable was sent for, and they proceeded to search him, when no less than six pint-pots were found concealed upon his person, none of which, however, belonged to the landlord of the house where he then was, but to several public-houses in the Borough, amongst which were the Black Lion and the Cart and Horse public-houses, in Tooley Street, and the Green Dragon, in Bermondsey Street. Upon discovering from what neighbourhood the pots came, the constable took the prisoner to Union Hall, and the landlords of the above and other public-houses attended, and swore to the pots being their property.

The jury found him guilty.

The chairman observed that the offence of which the prisoner had been convicted had become one of such great magnitude as to call for the severest punishment. It would scarcely be credited, but it had been ascertained that the depredations of this sort committed on the property of publicans, in and around the metropolis, amounted to the enormous sum of one hundred thousand pounds per annum.

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The prisoner had been convicted on the clearest evidence, and the Court felt itself bound to inflict a punishment which might operate to put a stop, if possible, to this evil. The sentence of the Court then was that he should be confined to hard labour for three months in the house of correction, and once during that time to be publicly whipped from the end of Horsemonger Lane to the end of Lant Street, in the Borough; which was severely inflicted.

THOMAS PUGH AND ELIZABETH PUGH

*Convicted at the London Sessions, 20th of January, 1810,
and sentenced to Imprisonment for a Conspiracy, in
what is called "Child-Dropping"*

THIS unfeeling, unnatural couple, father and daughter, were indicted at the London Sessions, in January, 1810, for conspiring, with other persons unknown, to defraud the overseers of the poor of the parish of St Andrew, Holborn, by exposing there a child of tender years, which would, of necessity, have become a burden on the funds of that parish.

W. Sculthorpe, a letter-carrier, proved that he had found a child, not above two years old, at the door of the house of Mr Moseley, in Castle Street, Holborn, after nine o'clock on the night of the 31st of August, 1809, half-way between the step of the door and the kerbstone. He took it up and kept it on his knee till Mr Moseley came out, who humanely took the child in.

Mr Moseley stated that after some ineffectual endeavours to get the child into the Foundling Hospital he sent it to the workhouse. Ann Taylor said she nursed the child from the 9th of October, 1807, till the 27th of August, 1809, when Miss Pugh took it away; but afterwards, on the remonstrance of a Mrs Dally, who suspected some injury was intended to the infant, another nurse of the name of Inglis was given the charge of it, from whom, however, it was taken between seven and eight on the Thursday following.

A coachman proved he carried the two prisoners and the

HENRY CLARKE

child (on the night the latter was exposed) to Castle Street, Holborn. Elizabeth Feary swore that Miss Pugh had told her that in the event of the death of the child, who had been entrusted to her care, she should have three hundred pounds. The father of the child was an officer, who had settled that sum on the child, and on its death the money was to come to Miss Pugh. This story she often repeated to the witness, intimating her wish for the death of the child. This alarmed the witness; and she, in consequence, warned the nurse to whom the child was entrusted.

J. Timbray proved T. Pugh's confession that a letter, arranging the meeting with E. Pugh at St Andrew's Church, Holborn, on the 31st of August, was in his handwriting.

A long defence was read by T. Pugh, who was eighty-four years of age, and father to E. Pugh, on whom he threw the whole blame.

Mr Gurney, counsel for Elizabeth Pugh, contended that the whole circumstances of the case proved that his client had no intention to put the child out of the way. She had paid ten pounds to the other defendant, T. Pugh, who had undertaken to get it provided for where there would be no probability of its mother being inquired after, and in this he had deceived her.

The recorder made a suitable charge to the jury, who immediately found both the prisoners guilty.

The recorder then pronounced the sentence of the Court to be, that each of the defendants be imprisoned in Giltspur Street Compter for six calendar months.

HENRY CLARKE

*Convicted at the Old Bailey, 20th of February, 1810,
for robbing a Mail-Coach, and sentenced to Death*

HENRY CLARKE was charged with robbing the Bath mail-coach of bank-notes, of the Wootton-Basset bank, to the amount of one thousand, eight hundred and twenty-five pounds, the property of Messrs Large, bankers at Wootton-Basset.

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It appeared from the statement of the counsel for the prosecution, Mr Gurney, that a parcel containing the said notes was sent from the banking-house of Messrs Cobb & Co., in Lombard Street, to the coach office of the Swan with two Necks, Lad Lane, on the 2nd of January, 1810, directed to Mr Large, at Bath, for the purpose of being sent by him to their house at Wootton-Basset, but that the parcel never came to hand.

The people at the coach office proved the booking of it there; but whether it had been stolen at their office, or out of the coach in the yard, or elsewhere, they could not say. It was proved, however, to have been seen on the counter in the office; and one of the witnesses went so far as to say that he was certain it had been put into the coach.

Three of the notes of ten pounds each were some time after traced to the prisoner, who was apprehended in consequence. His defence was that he found them, but of this he gave no proof; and, to rebut that, it was proved that in putting off one of the bills he had put a fictitious name on it instead of his own.

These facts were all proved, and the jury, without much hesitation, found him guilty, and sentence of death was passed.

WILLIAM COLMAN

*A Convict on board the Hulks, at Woolwich. Executed on
Pennington Heath, 26th of March, 1810, for the
Murder of a Fellow-Prisoner*

AT the Lent Assizes for the county of Kent, William Colman was indicted for the wilful murder of Thomas Jones, on the 29th of August, 1809, in the parish of Woolwich, by giving him several stabs in the neck and breast with a knife.

The prisoner was a young man, aged only twenty, and both himself and the deceased were convicts on board the hulks at Woolwich. The case was proved by two other convicts, and the facts they stated were as follows.

WILLIAM COOPER AND WILLIAM DRAPER

A brick had, a night or two before, been thrown at one of the officers of the convicts, and the prisoner suspected that the deceased had given information that he was the man who had committed the offence. Being incensed at the deceased, he repeatedly swore he would be revenged. They were, however, apparently reconciled, shook hands, and drank together; the deceased also helped the prisoner into bed, as he was incommoded by being loaded with very heavy irons. It appeared, however, that the prisoner still cherished his purpose of revenge, for, after remaining in bed some time, when he supposed all about him were asleep, he softly rose and went to the place where he knew a knife was kept, which he got. He then stole to the bed of the deceased and stabbed him in the throat and breast in the most determined manner. The wounds he gave were instantly mortal. He was, however, observed to have got out of bed, and go to the place where the knife was, by the two convicts, who gave evidence against him.

The jury instantly pronounced him guilty; and he suffered death on the third day after conviction.

WILLIAM COOPER AND WILLIAM DRAPER

Convicted of cutting off Trunks from a Gentleman's Carriage; the Former was transported for Seven Years, and the Latter imprisoned for Six Months in the House of Correction, 1810

AT the Lent Assizes, 1810, at Chelmsford, in Essex, William Cooper and William Draper, two soldiers of the barracks in that town, were indicted for grand larceny, in stealing from the chariot of the Rev. Joseph Jefferson two trunks, containing a considerable quantity of wearing apparel, a gold ring, some books, and other articles of value, the property of Mr Jefferson and his servant, Joseph Sharpe.

It appeared, from the evidence adduced on the part of the prosecution, that the Rev. Mr Jefferson left Chelmsford in his travelling chariot between seven and eight o'clock in the evening of the 22nd of January, intending to go to

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London. The property before mentioned was contained in two trunks strapped behind the carriage, the servant, Joseph Sharpe, following his master on horseback at a short distance. Half-way between Chelmsford and Ingatestone the servant met a tall man going towards the former place with a trunk on his shoulder, which, he remarked at the time, resembled very much one of his master's trunks. He did not, however, entertain any suspicion that his master had been robbed, but on the arrival of the carriage at Ingatestone he missed both the trunks from behind the chariot, and found that the straps which held them had been cut across. This occurrence he immediately communicated to his master, and also mentioned the circumstance of his having met a man upon the road with a trunk upon his shoulder. Mr Jefferson immediately set a diligent inquiry on foot, and after a considerable degree of difficulty traced the robbery to the two prisoners, who were private soldiers, and stationed in the new barracks, at Chelmsford, in whose room part of the property was found, and the remainder concealed in a ditch.

The prisoners strenuously denied the charge, but were both found guilty.

Cooper was sentenced to seven years' transportation; but Draper, in consideration of former good conduct, was ordered to be imprisoned for six months only, in the house of correction.

RICHARD FAULKNER

A Boy, executed at Wisbech, in 1810, for the Murder of another Lad of Twelve Years of Age

RICHARD FAULKNER was, at the Summer Assizes for Norfolk, 1810, capitally convicted of the wilful murder of George Burnham, a lad about twelve years of age, at Whittlesea, on the 15th of February, by cruelly beating him to death, for no other cause than for revenge on Burnham's mother, who had thrown some dirty water upon him.

RICHARD VALENTINE THOMAS

The prisoner was not sixteen, but so shockingly depraved and hardened that after condemnation he repeatedly clenched his fist and threatened to murder the clergyman who attended the jail, or anyone who dared to approach him. Indeed he was so ferocious that the jailer found it necessary to chain his hands and feet to his dungeon, where he uttered the most horrid oaths and imprecations on all who came near him ; and from the Friday to Saturday night refused to listen to any religious advice or admonition. At length, to prevent the termination of his existence in this depraved state, the expedient was devised of procuring a child about the size of the one murdered, and similar in feature and dress, whom two clergymen unexpectedly led between them, by the hands, into the cell, where he lay sulkily chained to the ground ; but on their approach he started, and seemed so completely terrified that he trembled in every limb ; cold drops of sweat profusely fell from him, and he was almost continuously in such a dreadful state of agitation that he entreated the clergymen to continue with him, and from that instant became as contrite a penitent as he had before been callous and insensible. In this happy transition he remained till his execution on Monday morning, having fully confessed his crime, and implored, by fervent prayer, the forgiveness of his sins from a merciful God !

RICHARD VALENTINE THOMAS

*Executed at the New Prison, in Horsemonger Lane,
3rd of September, 1810, for Forgery*

RIICHARD VALENTINE THOMAS was indicted for forging and uttering, knowing it to be forged, a cheque for the sum of four hundred pounds, eight shillings on Messrs Smith, Paine & Smyth, of George Street, Mansion House, purporting to be drawn by Messrs Diffell & Son.

Mr Bolland having stated the indictment, Mr Gurney opened the case, by which it appeared that the prisoner, in

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the month of July, 1810, who was in the habit of frequenting the Surrey Theatre, in Blackfriars Road, and the Equestrian Coffee-House contiguous to it, applied to a man of the name of Exton, who was waiter at the coffee-house, to go to Messrs Smith & Co. and get the bank-book of Messrs Diffell. This enabled him to ascertain the balance of money which Messrs D. had in the hands of their banker. He then sent the book back by the same person, with a request to have a cheque-book. He received one, and filled up a cheque for four hundred pounds, eight shillings, and delivered it to Mr Johnson, the box and house keeper of the Surrey Theatre, with whom he appeared to be upon intimate terms. He told him he had some custom and excise duties to pay, and requested him to get payment for the cheque in notes of ten and twenty pounds. The cheque was drawn, accordingly, "Pay duties or bearer," etc. Johnson went to Messrs Smith, but as they could not pay him as he wished, he received from them two notes of two hundred pounds each, which he immediately took to the bank and exchanged for the notes the prisoner had desired him to get. The forgery was soon detected, and the prisoner was taken into custody, in company with a woman with whom he cohabited. Upon searching her, a twenty-pound note was found, which was identified by a clerk of the bank as having been given to Johnson in exchange for the two notes of two hundred pounds. The prisoner and his companion were locked up in separate rooms. When the woman was asked where she had got the note of twenty pounds, she replied the prisoner gave it her; but he, being within hearing, immediately called out: "No, you got it from a gentleman." Before they were removed from these rooms the officers searched a privy communicating with the room in which the woman was confined, and found fragments of notes of ten and twenty pounds to the amount of three hundred and sixty pounds, and upon several of the pieces were the dates corresponding with the entry of the clerk of the bank. In addition to this, Mrs Johnson, the mistress of the Equestrian Coffee-House, produced a twenty-pound note which she had received

HENRY GRIFFIN

from the prisoner on the same day the cheque was presented, and this made up the whole four hundred pounds.

The fact of the forgery being established by Mr Diffell, who had for that purpose been released by Messrs Smith & Co., the jury without hesitation returned the verdict of guilty, and sentence of death was passed.

The prisoner was a young man of very genteel appearance. He died a penitent.

HENRY GRIFFIN

*Indicted at the Old Bailey, at the September Sessions, 1810,
for the Murder of his Wife, found guilty of
Manslaughter, and fined*

HENRY GRIFFIN was indicted at the Old Bailey for the wilful murder of Ann, his wife, by severing her windpipe with a razor, on the 4th of September, 1810.

The prisoner was a journeyman blacksmith, and resided in Onslow Street, Saffron Hill. The deceased was a woman of vicious habits, such as infidelity, drunkenness, etc. She had been from home a day and a night previous to the 4th, and the prisoner, accompanied by his brother and sister, met her in Bartholomew Fair on the evening of that day; and after treating her with gin, at her request, they all returned to the prisoner's lodgings, which they entered without a light. A few minutes after the prisoner's sister called out: "Murder!" On some of the neighbours going into the room, they found the deceased with her throat cut; and by signs she made to their interrogatories it was understood that her husband had murdered her. The prisoner was found near the house, and on being questioned about the murder he did not deny it, but added that he hoped she was dead, as he did not mind being hanged for her, and that he should die happy. He contended that she had brought men under his nose, and supplanted him in his bed, and threatened that her lovers should chastise him.

He was discharged on paying a small fine to the King.

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WILLIAM HITCHIN

*Transported for Seven Years for stealing an Exchequer
Bill, September, 1810*

AT the sessions at the Old Bailey, September, 1810, this man, an old offender, better known in London as the celebrated Bill Hitchin, was tried before a London jury, for having, in the month of July, 1806, stolen from the warehouse of Messrs Kent, London Wall, upholsterers, one Exchequer bill, of the value of one hundred pounds.

It appeared that the warehouse of the prosecutors was burglariously broken open, and plundered of various property, to the amount of several hundred pounds, at the period above mentioned, and no trace of the robbers could be obtained till two years afterwards, when the prisoner, being apprehended in the county of Warwick for an offence committed there, was being searched, and the Exchequer bill mentioned in the indictment was found upon his person. Having been convicted of the crime at that time imputed to him, and suffered imprisonment for the same, there was no opportunity of bringing him up for trial here till the period of his imprisonment in Warwick Jail had expired. That having lately taken place, he was now put to the bar to answer to this charge.

The case being gone through on the part of the prosecution, Mr Alley, his counsel, submitted that it was not made out according to law against the prisoner: that the indictment having stated that the prisoner had stolen an Exchequer bill, it was incumbent on the prosecutor to prove that it was an Exchequer bill, which he failed to do. The Court, however, overruled the objection, and the prisoner was found guilty. It being a grand larceny, the prisoner had his clergy, but was sentenced to seven years' transportation.

THOMAS BELLAMY AND JOHN LANEY

Watchmen, convicted of assaulting those whom they were bound to protect, September, 1810

AT the sessions of the Old Bailey held in September, 1810, Thomas Bellamy and John Laney, watchmen, belonging to the parish of St George's, Bloomsbury, were indicted for assaulting Mr Hindeson and his wife. The watchmen had indicted Hindeson and his wife for an assault on them, so that the jury had to try what is termed a cross-indictment.

It appeared that on the 1st of April, at two o'clock in the morning, Hindeson and his wife were going home—they residing in Stonecutters' Buildings, Lincoln's Inn Fields—when Hindeson, from the street, discovered a light in his apartment, at which he was somewhat alarmed, thinking that thieves were in the house, and with that persuasion of mind called the watch. Three came, and he desired them to remain at the door with his wife whilst he went upstairs to see everything was as it should be. They did so, and upstairs he went. Shortly afterwards he returned, informing them that all was right—that the light proceeded from his fire—and thanked them for their trouble. The watchmen, it seemed, took umbrage at being "made fools of," as they termed it, and wanted to be paid for their trouble in doing their duty; and on Hindeson doing nothing more than thank them for the trouble he had given them they were inclined to have from his bones what they could not get from his pocket—satisfaction! They attacked both Hindeson and his wife with their bludgeons, and after cutting him violently on the head, and tearing almost all the clothes off his back (the tattered and blood-stained remains of which were exposed in court), they insisted on carrying Hindeson to the watch-house, and he remained under confinement for thirty-seven hours.

The watchmen, finding that Hindeson was going to proceed against them, indicted him and his wife for an

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assault ; and they swore that they saw nobody strike either him or his wife, nor did they strike either of them till Hindeson and his wife began to maul them, when some blows might have been given in getting Hindeson to the watch-house. This and much more swore the two watchmen ; but there was neither circumstantial evidence nor tattered and blood-stained clothes to support their tale. Such being the case, with the total absence of all kind of evidence on the part of the watchmen, they were found guilty on the indictment preferred against them by Hindeson, and fined and imprisoned.

JOHN DAVISON, Esq.

*A Captain in the Royal Marines, convicted of stealing a Piece of Muslin from a Shopkeeper at Taunton,
13th of November, 1810*

AT the assizes held on the 13th of November, 1810, for the county of Somerset, before Sir Soulard Laurence, Captain John Davison, of the Royal Marines, was indicted for stealing a piece of muslin, of the value of thirty shillings, the property of James Bunter, mercer, of Taunton.

Mr Gazelee opened the indictment.

Mr Jeryle then stated the circumstance of the case to the jury, and observed he had seldom, in the discharge of his professional duty, a more painful task to perform than to detail the evidence which he had to adduce, in order to substantiate the charge in the indictment, which charged the prisoner with the crime of felony. The facts were few, short, but cogent, and, he feared, irresistible. They would come better from the witnesses than from any statement of his. He would proceed to call them. The first witness was :

Alexander Baller, who said : " I am an apprentice to Mr James Bunter, of Taunton. I know Captain Davison. He came to my master's house on the 25th of July, at half-past seven in the morning ; there was no one in the shop but myself ; he asked if Mr Bunter was up. I told him he was, and on that he went away. Mr Bunter came into the shop in about five minutes, and, on seeing someone go by with

JOHN DAVISON

whom he wished to speak, walked out towards the parade. Captain Davison came in again immediately after. I was cleaning the windows on the outside of the shop. On Captain Davison's again going into the shop I followed him. He asked to look at the muslins he had seen the night before, and walked to the lower end of the shop to the counter on the right hand, and I carried to him ten or twelve pieces as he was sitting on the counter. He took the first I showed him in his hand, and very carelessly laid it by his side, and he did the same with some other pieces. After looking at them some time he went towards the door; but, before that, he had thrown his handkerchief upon four or five of the pieces, which he had folded up. When at the door he asked me how the handkerchief he had on looked, and whether we had any of the same. I told him we had none of them. He asked me for a looking-glass. I told him we had none but what was fixed, but if he would walk into the parlour he might see there; to this he made no reply. He then sat down in a chair rather below where the muslin was, and asked to look at some stockings at about five shillings a pair, for his brother; before this I had taken away the pieces of muslin that were not covered over. There was at this time a piece under his handkerchief, which I could plainly perceive. I took him out some stockings from the opposite side of the shop, but kept my eyes on him, and I observed him draw his handkerchief from the counter into his lap with both his hands. I observed the muslin was still under the handkerchief as he drew it towards him. He then asked for some fashionable waistcoat patterns; I went across to the other counter to get him some. My face was towards him, and I observed him take up the handkerchief and squeeze it together, and put it under the left lapel of his coat; he took the patterns of the waistcoats, as he said he wished to show them first to Yandell, his tailor. At this time his arm was over his coat towards his lapel where he had put his handkerchief, and he walked out of the shop. Mr Bunter came into the shop whilst Captain Davison was there, but stayed only two or three minutes. I missed the

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first piece of muslin I had showed him immediately after his going out. It was marked with 'O/G S/R'; the 'S' had been altered, it had been an 'I.' When I missed the muslin I rang the bell, and Mr Bunter came. I described to him what had happened and the particular piece which was missing, and that Captain Davison was gone to Yandell's. Mr Bunter left the shop to go to Yandell's through Hammet Street; I then went out and saw Captain Davison standing at Mr Bluett's shop door. When I perceived Captain Davison was not gone to Yandell's I called to Mr Bunter aloud, and Davison walked by the market-house towards his own lodgings. At the time I showed Captain Davison the first piece I took notice of the mark."

Cross-examined by Mr Serjeant Pell: "I had seen the piece of muslin lost the preceding evening. Captain Davison had purchased a yard of ribbon the day before. On my calling to Mr Bunter, Captain Davison retired from Mr Bluett's shop."

Charles Sutton, constable of Taunton, said: "I went, in company with another constable, to search the house of Mr Owen; we first went into a bedchamber, and then into a drawing-room. Captain Davison was not there. In the chamber there was a trunk with Captain Davison's name on it, on a brass plate; we broke it open, and found in it this piece of muslin."

Alexander Baller identified the piece of muslin to be the one lost, and that it was Bunter's property.

Mr Bunter said: "The marks on the muslin are my writing, the muslin is my property, and worth more than thirty shillings. In ten minutes after the search the muslin was brought to me, and I knew it."

Alexander Baller, called again, said he had never sold that piece.

Here the evidence for the prosecution closed.

Colonel Mears, T. Woodford, Esq., Surgeon Bryant, R. Morgan, Esq., Rev. Mr Townsend, Rev. F. H. Clapp, H. C. Standart, Esq., and the Rev. D. Webber, all of whom were persons of the first respectability, and who

MARY JONES AND ELIZABETH PAIN

had known the prisoner nearly two years, severally gave him an excellent character.

The judge then summed up the evidence, and told the jury that, however they might lament that a gentleman of the prisoner's condition in life, holding the rank of a Captain in the Royal Marines, and who had borne so high and honourable a character till the present time, should on the present occasion have forfeited that character, and have forgotten his situation, it was their duty, if they were satisfied with the evidence they had heard, to find him guilty, however painful the discharge of that duty might be. Character, in cases where a fair doubt could be entertained, ought to have considerable weight with a jury. But on the contrary, where the facts were clear, and established by credible witnesses, however good the character of the prisoner might have been up to the time of committing the felony, it was no excuse for the commission of it. And unless they could say that the prisoner, at the time of drawing the handkerchief from the counter with both his hands, as the witness Baller stated, was ignorant that the muslin was contained in it, he did not know how to state to them a ground of doubt. The muslin, as they saw, was of considerable bulk, and not likely to be contained in a silk handkerchief without its being perceived by the prisoner, and if they thought so, it was their duty to say that he was guilty.

The jury, after a few seconds' consideration, returned a verdict of guilty. Sentence—transportation.

MARY JONES AND ELIZABETH PAIN

*Transported for Seven Years, November Sessions, 1810,
at the Old Bailey for Shoplifting*

THE treacherous species of theft commonly called "shop-lifting" had at this time spread into provincial places of trade. In London it had long been a favourite mode of plunder among abandoned females. In order to carry on their depredations, a conspiracy was formed of two or more abandoned women, who, well dressed, went together into shops

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and, while one bargained and paid for some small articles, the others secreted whatever they could lay their hands upon. In general they were provided with long cloaks, large pockets and wide petticoats, wherein they concealed their plunder.

Mary Jones and Elizabeth Paine stood indicted for privately stealing, on the 30th of October, 1809, twelve pairs of stockings, the property of Robert Kenyon, a hosier, on Holborn Hill. The value of the goods was four pounds, eighteen shillings. It appeared, from the testimony of Robert Kenyon, that the women were in the shop on the 30th of October; they were cheapening flannel, and went away after buying some trifle. On their leaving the shop he missed the parcel of stockings, which was hung on a chair near where the women were, but found the invoice which he had tucked into the parcel. He instantly pursued the women, and found them at a shop window in Holborn, looking at some paper, and tearing something by the light of the shop. He charged them with having his stockings. They denied it, and he proceeded to push them into the shop, when a gentleman gave him a parcel of stockings, which he said one of the women had dropped.

The common serjeant, after a suitable admonition to the prisoners on the heinousness of their offence, and the subsequent aggravation of it by their conduct, assured them that it was a great stretch of the jury's humanity that they were not capitally convicted. In order—as well as to punish them—to deter all others who might be pursuing the same courses, the Court sentenced them to transportation for seven years.

THOMAS KIMPTON

*Convicted at the Middlesex Sessions, December, 1810, of
a Violent Assault on a Juryman of the Court Leet,
and sentenced to Imprisonment*

THOMAS KIMPTON, who kept a butcher's shop near the turnpike, Islington Road, was put to the bar charged on an indictment with violently assaulting a gentleman of the leet jury of that district in the latter part

WILLIAM BRITTON

of the summer in a most violent manner, and obstructing him in the discharge of his duty.

It appeared from the statement of Mr Walford, counsel for the prosecution, that the gentlemen who comprised the said leet jury were out on the day mentioned in the indictment, and had seized several fraudulent weights, scales and measures. In the progress of their duty they approached the shop of the defendant, and the prosecutor, being then accompanied by only one of his associates, instantly laid hold of two weights in the shop of the defendant, both of which were deficient according to law, and so were seized. The defendant contended that they were of the due weight, but the prosecutor asserted, and showed, the contrary. From words they came to blows, and the defendant struck and beat the prosecutor till he was rescued from his hands by the interference of his neighbours.

Some attempts were made to palliate the case, but the jury, without any hesitation, found the defendant guilty.

Mr Watson, who presided for Mr Mainwaring, the chairman, animadverted in very strong language upon the conduct of the defendant, and adjudged that he should be sent to the house of correction, Coldbath Fields, for the space of one calendar month.

WILLIAM BRITTON

*Convicted at the Sessions at the Old Bailey, December,
1810, of stealing from a Coffee-House Bedroom,
and sentenced to Transportation*

WILLIAM BRITTON alias Symer Mark Taylor, a stout-looking young man, was indicted for stealing thirty-five guineas, a half-guinea in gold, and four foreign pieces of gold coin, called moors, of the value of four guineas, from Andrew M'Intyre, Esq.

The prisoner went into the Cannon Coffee-House, at Charing Cross, about three o'clock on the 17th of November, dressed in a naval uniform. He ordered dinner, and in the course of dinner asked the waiter if there were any other

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naval officers then in the house. Being informed that there were two or three naval gentlemen then in the house, he ordered a bed, and went out about six o'clock, on pretence of going to the play. He returned to the coffee-house at half-past nine, saying he had come away before the after-piece, ordered supper, and was shown to bed at half-past ten. Shortly after, the chambermaid, being in a room immediately under the prisoner, heard a noise over her head, and entering the room of Lieutenant Maitland, which adjoined the prisoner's, she found that Mr Maitland's trunk had been taken out of his room. Having communicated this to her master, he went up to the prisoner's room, which was locked. The prisoner admitted the landlord, and threw himself into bed, lying between the sheets with his clothes and boots on. A number of articles were perceived scattered about the room. The landlord immediately locked up the prisoner. Having procured an officer, his room was searched, when they found Mr Maitland's trunk, which had been forced open. Eighteen guineas, two of the foreign coins and some linen were also found in a chest of drawers in the room; and two guineas, in a piece of brown paper, and a chisel, under the mattress. The rest of the money for which the prisoner was indicted was found upon him the next day, in one of his boots. Mr M'Intyre, to whom this money belonged, had requested Mr Maitland to place it for security in his trunk. The prisoner's sorry appearance could have hardly allowed one to suppose that he had ever successfully personated a gentleman. Found guilty—transportation.

RICHARD CORDUY

Imprisoned Two Years in Chelmsford Jail for robbing the Royal Forest at Waltham of Six Pieces of Wood

AT the Summer Assizes for Essex, before the Lord Chief Justice of England, Richard Corduy was indicted for stealing six pieces of wood, the property of the King. He was deputy wood-ward of the Royal Forest of

PRIVATE HALES

Waltham, and had sold the wood in question to a carpenter soon after a sale had taken place of some refuse wood of the forest, by order of Lord Glenbervie, the Surveyor-General of Woods and Forests. Upon being charged with the fraud, he said one Byrne, who was his head woodman, had given him the wood in question, to make up the deficiency which had occurred in a lot sold in the sale, and for which he had paid the money to the auctioneer.

Byrne on being called denied this altogether; and the auctioneer, though he admitted that the prisoner had paid him the deficiency of the lot in question, denied his knowledge of any arrangement between Byrne and the prisoner on the subject.

The jury found the prisoner guilty, and Lord Ellenborough, after commenting at some length, and with considerable severity, on the nature of the offence, which was carried on to an enormous extent in the royal forests, sentenced the prisoner to two years' confinement in the jail. Admiral Harvey and Mr Raikes, and several other magistrates and clergymen of the county, gave him an excellent character for honesty and good conduct for the last thirty years.

PRIVATE HALES

Pitiful Scene in an Attempt to hang him at Jersey

SOME soldiers belonging to the 34th Regiment were brought to trial at Jersey, and two of them condemned to suffer death. Only one of them, however, named Hales, was left for execution. This poor fellow was constantly visited during his confinement by the Rev. G. Du Heaume, became resigned to his fate, and awaited the awful moment with manly but Christian fortitude.

He was accompanied to the place of execution by the above gentleman. He joined him in prayer, and ascended the scaffold with coolness and composure. At length he was turned off; and, when he had hung about a minute and a half, the executioner, taking hold of his convulsed body, suspended himself on it, and by this additional weight the

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rope gave way, in such a manner that the miserable sufferer's feet touched the ground. The executioner then pulled him sideways, with a view to strangling him, and being unable to effect it in this way got upon his shoulders. To the great surprise of all who witnessed this dreadful scene, the poor criminal rose straight upon his feet, with the hangman on his shoulders, and immediately loosened the rope from his throat with his fingers.

No language can describe the sensations which were excited among the bystanders by this shocking scene. The sheriff ordered another rope to be prepared; but the spectators interfered, and the sheriff agreed that, before proceeding to the execution of the sentence, he would wait till the will of the magistracy should be known. The civil magistrate not being in town, orders were sent by the Commander-in-Chief to carry the man back to jail. By this time the poor fellow had recovered his senses. The interest which the scene excited cannot be described—all became deeply interested in the man's fate. Captain Nicholls and another gentleman took him under the arms to conduct him, and by their assistance he was able to walk back to the prison. The Court decided that the whole matter relative to poor Hales should be transmitted to the King; and the execution of the sentence, in consequence, was suspended till his Majesty's pleasure was known. Petitions were prepared by the inhabitants and forwarded to his Majesty, and he was pardoned accordingly.

MARTHA DAVIS

Sentenced to Death for robbing a Foot-Boy while on an Errand for his Master

IN London a set of daring prostitutes of the lowest description all night long prowled about the streets in order to prey upon unguarded youth. Even in the light of day, as in the present case, they were often daring enough to seize any victim who might accidentally pass their door, drag him into their den of misery, then ill-treat and plunder him.

PIERCE AND LUKER

Circumstances of this nature have come to our knowledge, where apprentices and servant-lads have been inveigled by them, stripped, forcibly detained till midnight, and then, almost naked, turned into the street. The sufferer, in his fright, and happy to escape with life, finding himself at liberty again, runs from the scene of wickedness; and, forgetting the place, the plunderer too often escapes with impunity.

Of this description of dangerous women was Martha Davis. She was indicted at the sessions at the Old Bailey for stopping Thomas Tidswell, the foot-boy of Mr Lewis, the comedian, on the highway, carrying him by force into a wretched apartment in Dyot Street, St Giles's, and there robbing him of his hat and two-and-sixpence in money. The boy was sent with a message to Broad Court, Covent Garden, and having to pass from his master's house, in Hart Street, Bloomsbury, into Holborn, took Dyot Street, by mistake, in his way. The prisoner was standing at her door, and she forcibly seized him, dragged him into her room, and beat and robbed him. She then turned him into the street, when he alarmed the watch, and she was apprehended. The prisoner said in her defence that the prosecutor, with other boys, were engaged in throwing mud at her, seeing her intoxicated; and, having caught Tidswell, she dragged him into her room and boxed his ears, but denied robbing him. This was evidently a fabrication, and the jury found her guilty. Sentence of death was passed.

JOHN PIERCE, VINCENT PIERCE AND ELIZABETH LUKER

*Sentenced to Imprisonment for a Riot at Sadler's Wells
Theatre which occasioned the Death of Eighteen of
the Audience*

THE true cause of this very shocking circumstance, so fatal in its consequences, is known to but few. If it had been occasioned wilfully, for the sake of plunder, the very worst of deaths should have overtaken the offenders.

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As it was, the injured proprietors of the theatre, who alone were entitled to prosecute, could only reach the promoters in a conviction of a riot—unattended with proof which would lead to capital punishment.

It appeared that a noisy, intoxicated party, among whom were those convicted, sat in the pit, and were observed during the evening to disturb the audience. At length they so greatly annoyed the peaceable part near them that a quarrel arose, and the woman, Elizabeth Luker, cried out to her debauched male associates : “ Fight ! Fight ! ” This was, unhappily, by distant parts of the house, supposed to be the cry of “ Fire ! Fire ! ” So dread an alarm in such a place—hundreds crowded together—will readily be conceived. Each seeking safety in flight, the avenues of the theatre were soon choked up, and the weakest trampled underfoot.

In vain did the performers from the stage call upon them to return ; in vain did they assure them that there could be no danger of fire in a theatre filled with water —even a speaking-trumpet, proclaiming to that effect, was not heard.

Eighteen unhappy mortals thus perished. They were mostly females and boys. The men thus numbered with the dead were small, and apparently of weak habits of body.

From the turbulent part, the three above named, who were, however unintentionally, the cause of this havoc, were identified, seized, tried, and convicted of a riot.

Mr Mainwaring, the chairman at the Quarter Sessions at Hicks’s Hall, where they were tried, addressed them in a very impressive and solemn manner, to the following effect :—

“ John Pierce, Vincent Pierce and Elizabeth Luker, you have been severally convicted on an indictment which charged you with being riotously and tumultuously assembled for the purpose of disturbing the King’s peace, and of having resisted the legal authority to suppress your dangerous conduct in a theatre legally authorised, called Sadler’s Wells.

PIERCE AND LUKER

"It has appeared that you obtained admission into that theatre; and it has also appeared from the evidence that you repeatedly interrupted the performance, grossly insulted the audience, and obstructed the officers, duly authorised, in the performance and execution of their duty, when interposing to prevent your rioting. It is necessary, to preserve the public peace, that propriety of demeanour should be observed, from the highest to the lowest, in persons assembled at places of public amusement. The mischievous and fatal effects which have ensued for want of a due observance of the principles of decorum are too numerous to make it necessary for me to recount, and it is to be lamented that hardly a week passes but those disturbances do arise in one or other of the theatres. But the calamitous and dreadful events which happened in consequence of your outrageous conduct are distressing in the extreme. Not less than eighteen lives were lost! Whole families were plunged into irremediable ruin by the loss of the protection of those who were their natural protectors and guardians. When informed of the mischief you had occasioned, instead of exhibiting horror and dismay, and showing symptoms of sorrow and compunction, you most unfeelingly replied: 'Well, we don't care; we can't be hanged for it!' But surely, if you are not worse than brutes or savages, and void of the feelings which in general govern human nature, you will hereafter feel compunctions of remorse for the misery you have entailed upon the relatives of the deceased. The sentence which the Court is about to pronounce is slight in comparison with your crimes, and affords no atonement for your offence, but it is to be hoped that the punishment will have the effect of calling you to a proper repentance and contrition, and induce you to conduct yourselves, for the future, at all times, and in all places, with decency. Eighteen of your fellow-creatures by your improper conduct have been deprived of their lives. Wives of their husbands. Fathers of their children. And children of their parents. And whole families brought to utter ruin by your outrageous conduct. The sentence, therefore, of the Court upon you,

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John Pierce, is, that you be imprisoned for the space of six months ; and that you, Vincent Pierce, be imprisoned for the space of four months ; and that you, Elizabeth Luker, be imprisoned only for the space of fourteen days."

JOHN ROBINSON

*Executed at York, for a most cruel and deliberate Murder
of a Servant-Girl*

JOHN ROBINSON was a substantial farmer at Mickleby, near Whitby, in the county of York ; and Susannah Wilson, the deceased, had formerly lived with him as servant, but afterwards went to reside with a relation at Guisborough. This poor girl left her friends at Guisborough on the morning of the day in the evening of which, there is every reason to believe, she was murdered (though her body was not found till upwards of five weeks afterwards), alleging that she was going to see her master, who had promised to meet her with a bushel of wheat ; but previous to her setting out she told them (to use her own language) a fear had come that morning, and that if anything but good came to her they were to look to nobody but Robinson.

Some weeks having elapsed without any tidings being received of her, it was conjectured she had been murdered ; and as she had left Guisborough to proceed towards Mickleby (a distance of twelve miles) for the avowed purpose of meeting Robinson, suspicion naturally fell upon him. This mysterious affair having become a common topic of conversation, on Good Friday several country people made a strict search for the body, which they at last found buried in a part of Robinson's ground. Robinson's servant deposed that his master left home about five o'clock in the evening of the day on which the girl left Guisborough, and told his family he was going to Straiths, about four miles distant. It appeared that he arrived at Straiths about half-past nine, and slept there that night ; so he must have proceeded to that place immediately after he had perpetrated the murder.

JOHN ROBINSON

The unhappy victim was, at that time, in an advanced state of pregnancy.

Other evidence was adduced which left no doubt of his guilt in the minds of the jury, who brought in their verdict accordingly; and he immediately received sentence of death. He still, however, persisted in his innocence; until the compunctions of conscience, in the condemned cell, drew from him a full confession of his crime. He there acknowledged that the unfortunate victim of his lust and cruelty met him, according to appointment, in his own grounds, near the spot where the body was found; that he and this ill-fated young woman walked together nearly an hour, conversing on the subject for which she had met him. During this conversation, though he had met her fully determined to effect her death, he more than once relented of his cruel purpose. He, however, resisted these compunctions visitings of nature, and fortified himself in his murderous purpose.

About eight o'clock they sat down together: the deceased continued frequently to lament in the most affecting terms her unhappy situation, unconscious of the fate that awaited her. At this moment the prisoner stole unobserved behind her and, with an axe he had previously furnished himself with, gave her a mortal blow on the back of the head, which penetrated through the skull to the brain, and instantly killed her; but the prisoner, to make more sure of her death, mangled her dead body with the murderous axe, inflicting now on her lifeless corpse many deep wounds. The body was then deposited by him in the place where it was afterwards found, covered with whins. The prisoner after his confession seemed relieved of a great weight, and the ordinary said he never witnessed so great a change in any criminal.

About eleven o'clock on the Monday the sheriff, accompanied by his attendants, went to the castle to demand the prisoner; and a few moments after he appeared, accompanied by the clergyman and the officers of justice, on the fatal platform. The unhappy man appeared extremely

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agitated, and trembled excessively. After joining in prayer with the ordinary, he prayed by himself for a few moments with great earnestness. The executioner then proceeded to his office, and in a moment the fall of the platform terminated his mortal existence. He died instantly.

He was a tall, stout man, thirty-three years of age, and left a widow and four young children to lament his untimely and ignominious exit from the stage of life. His body was delivered to the surgeons for dissection.

LEVI MORTGEN AND JOSEPH LUPPA

Two Swindling Jews, transported for Seven Years for a Conspiracy to defraud

THIS brace of Hebrew villains were indicted at Hicks's Hall for a conspiracy to defraud Mr Long, the keeper of an hotel in Dover Street, Piccadilly, of the sum of eight pounds, which they obtained from him under false pretences.

Mr Long deposed that Mortgen went to his hotel, and represented himself as the agent of a Russian family. After looking over the different apartments, he stated that he was deputed to take the most elegant, for two Russian princes and two princesses, who had arrived at Portsmouth, and were only waiting the arrival of passports to proceed to London. The prisoner engaged apartments, and said he was then going to the Alien Office to obtain passports. He was afraid that he might not have cash enough in his pocket to accomplish his object and, after a seeming delicacy, he ventured to ask the loan of eight pounds until his return. His manner was so convincing that the loan was granted. Soon after this Lappa appeared, as a servant, in which character he represented himself as a messenger from the Russian party, and after being informed that apartments had been engaged by Mortgen he affected to be acquainted with his character, etc., talked about the instructions he had received, and begged to see the apartments. He ordered a supper to be ready at nine o'clock, and took leave. Mortgen

ELIZABETH MIDDLETON

informed the hotel-keeper that he had got an order to draw on Abraham Goldsmid, Esq., to the amount of five hundred pounds, and that on his return in the evening he would deposit one hundred pounds in order to ensure the keeping of the rooms. He, however, soon made his appearance again, and, saying he could not get cash that evening, requested a further loan of one pound to expedite the arrival of the Russians. This sum, however, was refused; and as the parties did not attend to partake of the supper their conduct was suspected, and they were apprehended. The prisoners were genteel-looking men, and had the appearance of foreigners. On searching them, documents were found which gave rise to an opinion that their depredations had been very general. The conspiracy was clearly proved, and the jury found both the prisoners guilty.

Luppa presented several passports received by him from the British Government, and expressed a hope that the Court would mitigate his punishment, on the ground that he had brought off one hundred and fifty pieces of cannon from Hanover when the French took possession of that city. The sentence of the Court was that the prisoners should be transported for seven years.

ELIZABETH MIDDLETON

*Imprisoned for Fourteen Days for Shocking Cruelty to her
Orphan Apprentice*

AT the Middlesex Sessions, Elizabeth Middleton was indicted by the parish officers of Whitechapel for cruelty to Elizabeth Summerfield, an orphan female, nine years of age, placed under her care by the parish. The defendant resided in Plumber's Row, near Commercial Road. The child had been with her two years, during which she had continually ill-used her. The child's cries frequently alarmed the neighbours, many of whom remonstrated with the defendant on the inhumanity of her conduct, but without producing any change in her behaviour. It was

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customary with her to turn the infant into the yard almost naked, in cold frosty weather, and keep her in such situation half-an-hour. On the 27th of July the defendant beat the child, holding her by the head, while a woman who lodged in the same house held her legs. This act of cruelty was seen by two persons, who looked over the yard wall, and they immediately gave information to the parish officers. The little girl corroborated the above facts; and, after the defendant had alleged in her defence that her conduct was misrepresented by her neighbours, the jury found her guilty, and she was sentenced to be imprisoned fourteen days.

JOHN MUCKETT

A Soldier, who was executed at Chelmsford for the Murder of his Wife, with whom he quarrelled because he had no Potatoes for Dinner

JOHN MUCKETT was in the first battalion of the 4th Regiment of Foot, quartered at Colchester.

At the trial, Thomas King and his wife stated that the prisoner and his wife and the witnesses lodged in the same room. About five o'clock on the day stated in the indictment the prisoner came home, and said he would have some dinner. His wife said she would put the kettle on, and get him some tea. He replied that he would not have tea always, he would have some bacon. His wife accordingly got him some bacon, and laid it on a stool near the bed where he was lying. He then grumbled because he had no potatoes. She immediately set about preparing some. He damned her for not making more haste. She replied she could not handle the dirty kettle and iron the officers' linen at the same time. He said he would have no half words and grumbling at him, and immediately knocked her off the stool. She gave him a small blow in return, on the shins, with the nozzle of the bellows, upon which he kicked her, and threw her across the room.

King then interfered, and said the prisoner should not

JAMES BULLOCK

beat her any more. He said he would : she was his own wife, he would do as he pleased with her, and he would kill her as soon as not. He again gave her several violent blows on the head. The poor woman attempted to walk across the room, but was very lame, and was obliged to lie down on another soldier's bed. Her husband made her come from thence, and lie on their own bed. She was very sick in the evening, and he appeared sorry for his conduct.

The deceased was put to bed ; and nothing more occurred until the witnesses heard the prisoner calling in the night : " Betty ! Betty ! " He said his wife was very ill. Mrs King got up, and found her dead. The prisoner then, in a state of remorse, went down on his knees, exclaiming he was a wretched man, for he had murdered her.

The Lord Chief Baron told the jury that this was a clear case of murder, and the jury having found him guilty he was sentenced to be hanged. At the place of execution he addressed the spectators, acknowledging the justice of his sentence, though he solemnly declared he had not the most distant idea of causing the death of his wife when he inflicted the fatal blows ; and he earnestly exhorted the spectators to bear in mind the dreadful example they had before them of the consequence of suffering a sudden impulse of anger to get the better of their understanding.

JAMES BULLOCK

*Executed, under the Bankruptcy Act, for a Felonious
Embezzlement*

JAMES BULLOCK was capitally indicted for feloniously secreting and embezzling the effects of his creditors, he being a bankrupt, with intent to defraud the said creditors, and to convert the same to his own use, against the statute.

Mr Gurney stated the case to the jury, and after detailing the facts with great accuracy, and charging the prisoner with the embezzlement of property to the amount of one thousand, two hundred pounds and upwards, he concluded

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by saying that the offence imputed to the prisoner was the result of the most criminal artifice and deep deliberation, and that the creditors would have compromised their duty to the public, and the justice due to themselves, had they not prosecuted the present indictment. The jury, he added, might pity the man's infirmities, but should he make out the charge preferred in evidence they were bound to find him guilty.

The first witness called was John Hubbard, clerk and cellarman to Messrs John & George Cowell, who proved the petitioning creditors' debt, amounting to one thousand, four hundred and seventy-two pounds, for rums and brandies sold to him.

William Bryant, the prisoner's travelling clerk, proved the fact of bankruptcy, and James Tracey and James Mabbs proved the prisoner's absconding from his counting-house, in Scotch Yard, Bush Lane, and from his country house at Dulwich, to avoid the pecuniary difficulties into which he said he had fallen. The last witness also proved that the goods were carted away from the country house, under the prisoner's direction, and carried to a house in Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, and afterwards to a house in Hungerford Market. There were two loads of goods carted away from Dulwich. In the first cart there was a bookcase, and in the second ten boxes.

Anthony, the officer, was then dispatched to Leith, information having been obtained of his flight to that place, and the prisoner was apprehended, passing under the name of Brown, and claiming in that name seventeen packages, which had been shipped in London for that place, on board the Leith packet, containing effects which the prisoner was bound to have surrendered under his commission to the use of his creditors.

Mr Thomas Wilde deposed that the prisoner deposited with him certain securities, rums, wines, etc., upon which he lent him eight hundred pounds, giving him a cheque upon the house of Prescott & Co. for the amount. This money the prisoner placed in the hands of Messrs Herries & Co.,

PATRICK M'DONALD

bankers, in St James's Street, in the name of "J. Brown, of No. 11 Chapel Street, Park Lane"; and four days after he withdrew the whole amount, and carried it with him to Scotland. This money was found in the packages, and constituted part of the effects.

A variety of other evidence was adduced to corroborate the various embezzlements, and to show the felonious intention of the prisoner to secrete his effects from his creditors.

Mr Justice Heath summed up the evidence; and, having commented upon the whole of the prisoner's conduct—his changing his name, and subsequent flight to Scotland—concluded by saying that charity itself could not suggest a doubt in his favour.

The jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to death. He was genteelly dressed in black, and exhibited uncommon skill and address during the progress of his trial.

PATRICK M'DONALD

A Poor Boy, convicted at the Old Bailey of stealing, and presented with a Deluge of Shillings

THIS miserable subject of the present case, an emaciated lad of about fourteen years of age, appeared at the bar at the Old Bailey. He was indicted for stealing a jacket, being almost naked, valued at fourteen shillings. The evidence against him was too clear.

Being asked what he had to say in his defence, he told an artless, affecting tale: that he came from the United States of America, and was a cabin-boy in a merchant vessel from that country, which arrived six months before, but returned without him; that he found himself destitute and without a penny; and that cold and hunger alone had compelled him to steal clothes and food.

One of the jury asked him if had eaten anything that day, to which he answered: "No, sir; nor a bit the day before." He then burst into tears, which produced such an effect that the sheriff gave him some silver, and the jury, before

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they gave their verdict, each handed him a shilling. They then asked whether such misery and hunger could possibly plead his excuse in a court of justice. The learned judge said he sympathised with the jury, but was bound to inform them that no distress whatever could, in the eye of the law, excuse the prisoner's offence. The jury, bound by their oaths to do strict justice between their country and the prisoner, reluctantly found him guilty.

The judge then ordered that the boy should be taken care of, until an opportunity offered to find him a proper master, and observed that he would then procure his pardon.

While this child of poverty and wretchedness was withdrawing, shillings, from all parts of the court and gallery, were thrown to him, which amounted to a sum sufficient to clothe and nourish him.

FREDERICK SMITH *alias* HENRY ST JOHN

Convicted at the Old Bailey, and sentenced to Transportation for a Curious Kind of Fraud

FRDERICK SMITH *alias* Henry St John was indicted before the Lord Chief Baron and Mr Justice Laurence for stealing a three-hundred-pound bank-note privately from the person of Thomas Bartlett. The prosecutor, who appeared to be a very weak man, stated that he was a slop-seller, and that the prisoner was introduced to him by one Benjamin Davis. The prisoner was represented as a captain in the army.

The prosecutor had parted with his wife, who had gone to Ramsgate, but wished very much to be reconciled to her. The prisoner told him that his wife and two attorneys were in a conspiracy to have him declared a lunatic, that they would get all his property, and lock him up in a madhouse for life. He therefore advised him to sell all his investments so as to save the money from them. By his advice, on the 7th of July, he sold out one thousand pounds Consols., and received six hundred and nineteen pounds as the purchase-money.

SAMUEL OLIVER

The prisoner then told him that he had a scheme in his head to reconcile him to his wife : that they should both go down to Ramsgate, and, if she would not come too, they would then threaten to send her son to sea, as she was very fond of him.

They accordingly went to Ramsgate ; but the prisoner pretended that he could never see the wife, and advised that they should go to Fulham, where the son lived. They accordingly posted to Fulham, and went to Mr Newbott's, where the son was ; but the prisoner told him that he was gone to Oxford. This was on the 10th of July. They then came up to town together, and the prisoner pressed the prosecutor to drink all the way, by which he became rather forward. He had the notes and all the six hundred pounds in his pocket-book, in his coat-pocket.

They came up to London together, and went to a public-house in Soho, kept by one Kelly, where they had some tea ; and, when he took out his pocket-book to pay, all the notes were gone. He immediately told the prisoner that he must have picked his pocket, as no one else had been near him. The prisoner appeared much offended, and threatened to knock him down.

It was found by other evidence that the prisoner afterwards paid the three-hundred-pound bank-note to Haywood & Co., bankers, at Manchester, with whom he opened an account under the name of "Henry St John," and the clerk fully identified his person.

He was convicted, and transported.

SAMUEL OLIVER

*A Shop-Boy, transported for Seven Years for committing
a Petty Theft*

SAMUEL OLIVER had been some time shop-boy to Mr Thomas Stirderan, a hosier, in Holborn, and had incurred some suspicion of dishonest practices. Mr Stirderan having consulted a friend, it was agreed to mark seven

Mr Garrow was his counsel, and pleaded hard to save him. He said that Oliver, being entrusted with the money for the use of his master, was at liberty to exchange it, or put it in his pocket, until called upon to make up his accounts. But the omission in the book of entries being looked on by the judge as sufficient evidence of the intended fraud, the jury without hesitation found him guilty.

The recorder then passed sentence on him as follows :—

“ Samuel Oliver, you have been tried by a jury of your country, and found guilty of one of the very worst descriptions of theft. You ungratefully betrayed the trust reposed in you by your employer, who paid you to be faithful to him. It is greatly to be lamented that young men, by so mean an offence, should bring themselves into the shameful situation in which you are now placed ; and that there is a necessity of proceeding with rigour against a person who had apparently preserved a good character ; but yours is a crime which the courts are determined never to treat with lenity. It is in itself hostile to every idea of domestic security. It is so harsh a violation of the confidence reposed, and of every bond of civil society, that, whenever it is proved, it cannot be punished with too much severity. The sentence, therefore, of this Court is, that you be transported beyond the seas, for the term of seven years, to such place as his Majesty shall think fit.”

He was accordingly sent to Botany Bay.

THOMAS WHITE AND WALTER WYATT

*Two Thieves, who were the First Criminals to be executed
at Oxford*

ONE of the unfortunate sufferers on this melancholy occasion was Thomas White, a daring robber, who had the temerity to break into Blenheim House, the magnificent seat of the Duke of Marlborough, built by order of Queen Anne as a mark of favour to her *Generalissimo*, the conqueror of Louis XIV. of France, and he who dictated the terms of peace before the gates of Paris.

White forcibly entered this strong range of buildings, and stole thereout silver plate to the value of more than five hundred pounds, with which he got off to London, where he sold it to a Jew in Houndsditch, who immediately melted it down. Of this robbery he was convicted, and sentenced to die.

The other malefactor was Walter Wyatt, a clerk to the postmaster of Witney, who had been entrusted with the sorting of letters, and the other business of the office.

In this capacity he stole letters containing bank-notes and bills to a considerable amount, for which robbery and breach of trust he was thus deservedly condemned.

A gallows and platform having been prepared within the walls of the castle, at twelve o'clock precisely the fatal procession began—viz. six sheriff officers, armed with javelins, two and two; the executioner and sword; the two malefactors, pinioned, with white caps on their heads, between the turnkeys, armed; Redditch, a condemned criminal, but reprieved, guarded by two constables. The remainder of the felons, two and two, guarded to the place appointed for them, near the gallows, where they were compelled to be spectators of the horrible scene.

The two malefactors having ascended the platform, before which was a prodigious assemblage of spectators, they delivered up their books of devotion. The cords were then fixed, the caps pulled over their eyes, and in little

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more than two minutes (having themselves requested dispatch) the platform sank, and they were launched into eternity.

JOSEPH MOSES

Convicted in 1811 of receiving the Skins of Royal Swans from the Serpentine River, in Hyde Park, knowing them to have been stolen

IN the beginning of the year 1811 the swans of the Serpentine river were missing; and, on search after them, their bodies were found on its banks, stripped of skin and feathers. The runners of justice soon began a pursuit of the uncommon robber, and in a short time traced the feathers, which had been sent by an Israelite to one Ryder, to be dressed, for the decoration of pretty Christian misses.

Moses, not being able to convince Limerick, the Christian catch-poll who seized him, of his honestly coming by the plumage of the royal birds, was taken before a Bench of Magistrates, who committed him for trial.

On the 5th of April, 1811, he was brought up to the bar of the sessions-house at Hicks's Hall, charged with having received into his possession six swans' skins, knowing them to have been stolen.

William Baker, the first witness called, stated that he was park-keeper under the Right Hon. Lord Euston, Ranger of Hyde Park; there were six swans kept in the Serpentine river, two of which had been stolen in the latter part of January, 1811, and he found the carcasses of the remaining four lying on the bank of the pond, the skins having been stripped from them. A few days after, Limerick, the officer of Bow Street, brought six skins to him, which, on being applied to the carcasses, were found exactly to correspond, and so he had no doubt they were the stolen skins.

A man of the name of Devine, and an officer of the name of Lack, proved finding six swans' skins in the

JOSEPH MOSES

possession of the prisoner : they were hanging up in his shop in Welbeck Street, where they were found.

A young woman of the name of Mary Brush, who had been his servant, but who had recently quitted his service, proved that on Monday evening, the 25th of February, 1811, her master came home about five o'clock, and had something wrapped up in a bundle. She saw him open it in the parlour and take two swans' skins out of it. She further deposed that on Tuesday, the 26th, a man came to her master's house, and asked if Mr Moses was at home, and left four more swans' skins.

A person of the name of Hart swore that he saw the defendant buy two swans' skins in Leadenhall Market, and give two pounds for them, on Monday, the 25th of February. He was not believed.

It appeared, however, that the skins tallied exactly with the bodies of the dead swans ; for, wherever a part of the skin stuck to the bodies, a part in the same position was equally wanting from the skins.

Several persons—of the Hebrew persuasion and others—gave the defendant a good character ; some knew him upwards of twenty years.

The chairman summed up the evidence, and the jury, after retiring upwards of half-an-hour, returned a verdict of guilty.

As soon as the verdict was recorded, Mr Alley, counsel for the prisoner, raised some objections to the indictment, contending that, swans being what in law is termed *sexc naturæ*, the stealing of them did not amount to a larceny ; and, as there was no thief, there could not therefore be any receiving.

The counsel on the other side contended to the contrary, and the Court overruled the objections. The prisoner was fined, and imprisoned.

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EDWARD BEAZLEY

A Boy, whipped in Newgate for destroying Women's Apparel with Aqua Fortis, 11th of March, 1811

UNTIL severe examples were made of the actors in this kind of "frolic and fun," females often found their clothes drop to tatters, and such as restricted themselves to mere muslin and chemise were frequently dreadfully burned, in a way invisible and almost unaccountable. A set of urchins and chaps, neither men nor boys, by way of a "high game," procured aqua fortis, vitriol and other corrosive liquids, and filling therewith a syringe, or bottle, sallied forth to give the girls "a squirt."

Of this mischievous description we find Edward Beazley, who was convicted of this unpardonable offence at the Old Bailey, the 11th of March, 1811.

He was indicted for wilfully and maliciously injuring and destroying the apparel of Anne Parker, which she was wearing, by feloniously throwing upon the same a certain poisonous substance called aqua fortis, whereby the same was so injured as to be rendered useless and of no value.

He was also charged upon two other indictments for the like offence, on the prosecution of two other women.

It appeared that the prisoner, a little boy about thirteen years old, took it into his head to sally into Fleet Street, on the night of Saturday, 16th of February, and there threw the liquid upon the clothes of several ladies. He was caught, carried before the sitting magistrate at Guildhall, and fully committed, on three several charges.

Three ladies appeared, and proved the facts stated in the indictments, and exhibited their burned garments, such as pelisses, gowns and other articles, which were literally burned to riddles.

He was found guilty.

His master, Mr Blades, an eminent chemist on Ludgate Hill, gave him a good character for honesty; he never knew anything wrong of him before, but he acknowledged that he had access to both vitriol and aqua fortis.

TOWNLEY AND WHITING

The Court, having a discretionary power under the Act of Parliament, instead of transporting him for seven years, only ordered him to be well whipped in the jail, and returned to his friends.

WILLIAM TOWNLEY

*Convicted of Burglary, and executed at Gloucester,
23rd of March, 1811, a Few Minutes
before a Reprieve arrived*

WILLIAM TOWNLEY had received sentence of death at Gloucester, for burglary, and was left for execution. A short time after the departure of the judge towards Hereford, the next assize town, he was informed of some circumstances favourable to the case of the prisoner, and, in consequence thereof, he granted a reprieve. By a fatal mistake this reprieve was directed by the clerk to Mr Wilton, under-sheriff of Herefordshire, in place of Gloucestershire, and put into the post office at Hereford. There it remained until the letters were delivered next morning, time enough for it to have reached Gloucester. When Messrs Bird and Woolaston, the under-sheriffs for Herefordshire, opened the packet, seeing its import of life or death, they dispatched Mr Bennet of the hotel with it, upon a fleet horse, to the place of its destination, thirty-four miles away; but, melancholy to relate, he arrived at the spot of execution twenty minutes too late; the culprit having been hanging on the gallows that time, and dead.

MICHAEL WHITING

*A Methodist Preacher, sentenced to Death for poisoning
his Two Brothers-in-Law, with an Intent to possess
himself of their Property, 1811*

AT the Isle of Ely Assizes in 1811, Michael Whiting, a shopkeeper in Downham, near Ely, and a dissenting preacher, was indicted, under Lord Ellenborough's Act, on

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a charge of administering poison to George Langman and to Joseph Langman, his brothers-in-law.

It appeared in evidence that the Langmans resided together at Downham, and were small farmers; and that their family consisted of themselves, a sister named Sarah, about ten years of age, and a female domestic, of the name of Catharine Carter, who acted as their housekeeper and servant; they had another sister, who was married to the prisoner. On the morning of Tuesday, the 12th of March, 1811, they sent their sister to the prisoner's house to borrow a loaf. The prisoner returned with her, and brought a loaf with him, and told the Langmans that, as he understood their housekeeper was going on a visit to her friends for a day or two, he would bring them some flour and pork to make a pudding for their dinner. He went away, and shortly afterwards returned with a basin of flour, and pork. Addressing himself to the housekeeper he said : "Catharine, be sure you make the boys a pudding before you go." He then took the young child home with him to dinner. The housekeeper made two puddings, but observed the flour would not properly adhere; she left them in a kneading trough, and the Langmans boiled one of them for dinner. The diners had hardly swallowed two or three mouthfuls before they were taken exceedingly ill, and seized with violent vomiting. Suspecting the pudding had been poisoned, one of the Langmans gave a small piece to a sow in the yard, which swallowed it, and was immediately taken sick and, after lingering some time, died. The elder brother soon recovered, but the younger one continued in a precarious state for several days. The remnants of the pudding were analysed by Mr Woolaston, professor of chemistry at the University of Cambridge, and found to contain a considerable quantity of corrosive sublimate of mercury. The prisoner, who it appeared was a dealer in flour, attempted to account for the pudding being poisoned by stating that he had lately laid some *nux vomica* to poison some vermin, and that some of it must accidentally have been carried into his flour-bin. Mr Woolaston, however, positively

RICHARD ARMITAGE AND C. THOMAS

stated that the pudding contained no other poisonous ingredient than corrosive sublimate; and it came out in evidence that the prisoner, who sold drugs, had purchased of the person whom he succeeded in business a considerable quantity of that poison. It also appeared that the flour-bins belonging to the prisoner had been searched, and that immediately upon its being discovered that the Langmans had taken poison the prisoner had emptied his bins and washed them out.

Mr Alley, from London, conducted the prisoner's defence. The trial lasted till six o'clock at night; and the jury, after deliberating about ten minutes, found the prisoner guilty. The judge immediately passed sentence of death, and he was left for execution.

RICHARD ARMITAGE AND C. THOMAS

*Clerks in the Bank of England, executed before Newgate,
24th of June, 1811, for Forgery*

FORGERY was formerly an offence which was never pardoned, a determination on the part of the Crown laid down in the cases of the Perreaus and of Doctor Dodd, whom no interest could save from an ignominious death. The ancient punishment for this crime was thus minutely described in a London periodical publication for the year 1731:

"June 9th.—This day, about noon, Japhet Crook, alias St Peter Stranger, was brought to the pillory at Charing Cross, according to his sentence for forgery. He stood an hour thereon; after which a chair was set on the pillory; and he being put therein, the hangman with a sort of pruning knife cut off both his ears, and immediately a surgeon clapt a styptic thereon. Then the executioner, with a pair of scissors, cut his left nostril twice before it was quite through, and afterwards cut through the right nostril at once. He bore all this with great patience; but when, in pursuance of his sentence, his right nostril was seared with

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a red-hot iron, he was in such violent pain that his left nostril was let alone, and he went from the pillory bleeding. He was conveyed from thence to the King's Bench Prison, there to remain for life. He died in confinement about three years after."

The crime for which Armitage and Thomas suffered was of the very worst description of forgery—a scandalous breach of public trust—a robbery upon the very corporation they were bound to protect from the nefarious attempts of others. They long had practised impositions on the Bank of England, unsuspected, and in the meantime maintained a show of integrity.

Towards the latter end of August, 1810, Robert Roberts was apprehended on suspicion of being concerned in the many forgeries which for some time had been practised on the Bank of England and the commercial part of the metropolis. He was brought to one of the public offices, and from thence remanded to the house of correction in Coldbath Fields. In a few days, in company with another prisoner, of the name of Harper, he effected his escape, and the public were surprised at seeing large printed sheets of paper pasted on the walls of the City, announcing this extraordinary circumstance, and offering a large reward for their apprehension, but particularly for the discovery of Roberts, the other belonging merely to the gangs of smaller rogues.

Notwithstanding the large reward offered for his apprehension, Roberts evaded the strict search of justice. It was known that he had carried off a considerable sum of money : his proportion of the success of the forgeries wherein he was implicated, and for which only the unfortunate subjects of this case suffered. At length he was identified at a tavern on the Surrey side of Westminster Bridge, where he had taken up his lodgings as a private country gentleman detained in town on his own concerns.

Roberts, to save his own life, impeached Armitage and Thomas, two clerks filling places of great trust in the Bank of England, as the immediate agents of the many forgeries which had been of late committed on that corporation ; and

RICHARD ARMITAGE AND C. THOMAS

he was admitted evidence against them on the part of the Crown.

Richard Armitage was first apprehended : he was brought to the public office in Marlborough Street on the 8th of April, 1810 ; and after a short examination was committed to the New Prison, for trial at the next Old Bailey sessions. Among the witnesses bound over to give evidence against him was Mrs Roberts, the mistress of his base accuser. His forgeries of dividend warrants were to the amount of two thousand, four hundred pounds.

On the 2nd of May following, C. Thomas was apprehended and brought to the same office, on a charge of having forged several dividend warrants ; and, after three separate examinations, was also committed for trial.

This prisoner was a bank clerk in the Imperial Annuity Office, and the warrants forged were to obtain the dividends of a person who had been dead about three years, and whose executors had not applied for his property. It appeared that three hundred and sixty pounds had been paid out of the bank, and the prisoner's name was signed as an attesting witness. It was also proved that bank-notes, with which the dividends were paid, were found in the prisoner's possession. Under these circumstances the prisoner was fully committed for trial. This was one of the cases disclosed by Roberts.

Armitage was fully committed, and Roberts and his wife were the principal witnesses against him.

The trials of these unfortunate men were unattended by any other circumstance worth noticing, further than that, independent of the evidence of Roberts and his wife—which, unsupported, would have received little credit—full proof was adduced of their guilt. They were consequently found guilty, and received sentence of death.

On the 24th of June, 1811, Armitage and Thomas were executed at the Old Bailey, pursuant to their sentence. The former, from severe illness, was under the necessity of being supported by a friend while ascending—and during his continuance on—the scaffold.

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MARY GREEN

Convicted of putting off Base Coin, and sentenced to Six Months' Imprisonment, 5th of April, 1811

AT the sessions for Middlesex held on the 5th of April, 1811, Mary Green, a decent-looking girl, was found guilty of putting off two bad shillings to Mr Harris, a linendraper, in Pickett Street, Temple Bar.

She went into Mr Harris's shop and asked for small silver for a dollar. Mr Harris gave it to her. She walked two or three yards up the shop and, addressing herself to the shopman, told him that his master had given her two bad shillings. This Mr Harris denied, and refused to take them. She then conducted herself most rudely; whereupon a constable was sent for. Before he arrived she still persisted in her impudent behaviour, saying that she had no more money about her but the dollar. Lack, the officer, soon arrived, and searched her, and there was found concealed about her twelve shillings and four sixpences, all in good silver, besides the change of the dollar.

The jury, after a charge from Mr Mainwaring, found her guilty.

As soon as the verdict was pronounced, the counsel for the prosecution then acquainted the Court that, as the punishment was pointed out by Act of Parliament, from which they could not deviate, and therefore the prisoner's cause could not be affected by the profligacy of her character, he thought it right to mention that this was the second time she had been brought into that court (first with her mother) for this kind of crime; that her father was at that moment transported, and her younger sister was in confinement under the sentence of the Court for the very same kind of offence. She was sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

THOMAS LEACH AND ELIZABETH, HIS WIFE

*The Former transported for uttering Forged Bank-Notes, and
the Latter condemned to Death, July, 1811*

AT the sessions, July, 1811, at the Old Bailey, Thomas Leach was put to the bar charged with feloniously uttering and publishing as true a certain false, forged and counterfeit bank-note for the payment of five pounds, well knowing the same to be forged and counterfeit, with intent to defraud the Governor and Company of the Bank of England. On his being arraigned, he pleaded guilty to the lesser charge in the indictment—namely, that of having such counterfeit note in his possession—by which means he avoided the punishment of death, and was liable to be transported for the term of fourteen years.

When he was removed from the bar, Elizabeth Leach, his wife, was next placed there. She stood charged with feloniously uttering and publishing as true a certain false, forged and counterfeit bank-note for the payment of one pound, well knowing the same to be forged, false and counterfeit, with the intent of defrauding the Governor and Company of the Bank of England. The prisoner did not follow her husband's example upon this occasion, but pleaded "Not Guilty," and her trial proceeded.

Several witnesses were then examined, and first a shop-keeper in Clerkenwell, where she passed a false one-pound note. Other persons proved the like, and added that she was always alone, unaccompanied by any other person whatsoever. It was also proved that upon searching her apartments there were found in her pockets some genuine bank-notes of five-pound, two-pound and one-pound value, and in her work-basket a bundle of forged notes for the sums exactly corresponding with those that she had passed to the several persons who had appeared against her.

In her defence she attempted to impress the Court and the jury to believe that her husband had always accompanied her; in this, however, she totally failed, and too late she

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found cause to lament that she had put in such a plea as she did, for the jury found her guilty. She was sentenced to death, which nothing could avert but an extension of Royal clemency.

JOHN STANLEY, THOMAS JEFFRY, W. BRAINE AND WILLIAM BRUNT

*London Boot Operatives who were imprisoned for conspiring
to obtain Better Wages, August, 1811*

ON the 17th of August, 1811, John Stanley, Thomas Jeffry, W. Braine and William Brunt, journeymen boot and shoe makers, were brought before the aldermen, Messrs Scholey and Magney, on an information charging them with forming a conspiracy, with thirty-six others, to obtain, contrary to the statute, an increase of wages from their master, Mr Hale, bootmaker, Fleet Street.

Mr Alley, as counsel for the prosecution, stated that the defendants, under an improper and delusive sense of the law, had illegally held a meeting for the purpose of compelling Mr Hale to allow them the same prices for work that Mr Hoby and other masters at the west end of the town gave. Mr Hale had, from motives of humanity, selected a few persons for punishment rather than the whole of those who had left his employment, and a hope was entertained that his lenity would have had the effect of inducing them all to return to their work, in which case the prosecution would not be followed up; but if, on the contrary, they should persist in their refusal to work, justice would take place.

Mr Hale, being examined, deposed that he was informed, while in the country, that his men had struck for increase of prices, and that they had held a meeting for that purpose. In consequence of their conduct he attended their meeting, and he was informed, by two they had delegated, that the prices they required were contained in a book. The men contended they were entitled to the price given by Mr Hoby for boots, jockey-boots and shoes, which differed from that given by the prosecutor. He refused on pretence that he

JANE COX

gave the same price that others did in the City. Finding them persist in their refusal to work for him, he requested a final answer by letter, as he was unwilling to resort to force precipitately. The meeting did not send him any notice, and he applied to a magistrate, in consequence of which the defendants were taken by warrants.

The brother of the last witness confirmed the preceding statement.

Mr Spankey, for the defendants, contended that they had not offended against the statute by merely entering into what he termed a shop association to obtain one of two rates of wages, payable and allowed in the trade.

The magistrates, sitting in their double capacity as judges and jurors, found the defendants guilty, and sentenced them to two months' imprisonment in Newgate, where they were to be allowed, by special order, to work at shoemaking for the support of their wives and families.

Watts and Bulger also appeared on the same charge; but the former, by pleading guilty, escaped prosecution; and the latter was acquitted, as it did not appear that he had attended the meeting of the other conspirators. The wives and children of the defendants were present.

This decision was of great importance to journeymen, as it decided a question on which they had hitherto entertained very erroneous opinions. The defendants in this case had the power of appealing to the court or sessions, but they declined doing so previous to the decision of the aldermen.

The magistrates had power, by the Penal Act, to commit the defendants for three months to the house of correction.

JANE COX

*Executed at Exeter Summer Assizes, 1811, for poisoning
a Child with Arsenic*

JANE COX was indicted at Exeter Assizes, on the 9th of August, 1811, for the wilful murder of one John Trenaman, an infant, sixteen months old, and Arthur Tucker was charged as an accessory. The latter was a respectable

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farmer, living at Hatherleigh, in this county, and the infant was his natural child. It appeared that Jane Cox had, on the 25th of June, 1811, administered to the child a quantity of arsenic, by putting it into the child's hands. The child put the arsenic in its mouth, in consequence of which it died in about two hours. The prisoner, in her written confession, had implicated Tucker, as having persuaded her to do the deed, and stated his having taken the arsenic from under the roof of a cottage, and given it to her, and promised her a one-pound note if she would administer it to the child. This was not believed.

The prisoner, Jane Cox, after a trial of seven hours, was convicted, and hanged on the following Monday. Tucker was acquitted. He called a number of respectable witnesses who gave him a very high character.

On Monday, the 12th of August, 1811, pursuant to her sentence, this unfortunate woman was brought to the "new drop," the place of execution, and underwent the dread sentence of the law.

She addressed the spectators at some length, and lamented that the person who had instigated her to the commission of the horrid deed was not also to suffer with her.

JAMES DALE

A Chimney-Sweep, who descended Chimneys to break into Houses, and was convicted on 9th September, 1811

AT Union Hall, in the borough of Southwark, on the 9th of September, 1811, James Dale, a chimney-sweep, was charged on suspicion of committing divers felonies.

It appeared that the houses of several of the inhabitants of the borough had recently been entered by some person contriving to get on the roof, and then descending the chimney.¹ This depredator descended into the house of

¹ A ludicrous circumstance had lately occurred at Bromhill, near Whalton. Some villains attempted to rob the barn of Mr John Pratt, of that place; but, while they were breaking in, two chimney-sweeps who were lodged there,

JAMES DALE

Mr Stewartson, a haberdasher, and found his way into the kitchen, which is on the first floor; here, as it would appear, though in the dark, the closet did not escape his notice, as a considerable quantity of bread and cheese had disappeared when the servant came down in the morning. A morocco thread-case, belonging to Mrs Stewartson, in which was a gown pattern cut out of thin paper—by the feel of which the thief was probably deceived into an opinion that he had got a prize of bank-notes—was also taken. From this house the villain went to Mr Freeman's, where he again descended. Here having discovered his error with respect to the thread-case, and also having found more valuable booty—namely, four silver tablespoons and a silver vegetable fork—he reascended the chimney with them, leaving the thread-case and also a clasp-knife behind him.

The next house he visited was Mr Bishop's, a haberdasher, where he proceeded so far as to remove the chimney-pot, preparatory to his descent, when it is supposed he was interrupted, as he retreated without effecting his object. On the same night he visited the World Turned Upside Down public-house, in the Kent Road, where, according to his usual practice, disdaining the common entrance, he descended the chimney; and, finding nothing better, contented himself with taking a bag containing about three pounds worth of light halfpence; and here, it is supposed, he terminated the labours of the night. On Goff, the officer, being applied to by Mr Freeman, his suspicion fell on the prisoner, Dale, who had been seen with a considerable quantity of bad halfpence in his possession; these

for the purpose of starting off early in the morning with their work at the farmer's, were roused by the noise, and on one of them calling out, "I am coming," the predators scampered off in great terror.

At Highgate, about the same time, two ladies were dreadfully alarmed by the appearance of a black figure in their bedroom. The younger of them immediately jumped out of bed, ran downstairs and alarmed the family; when, to their astonishment, on returning to the room, it was found to be a chimney-sweep, who had descended from the wrong chimney, to the no small confusion of the ladies, who found themselves in complete deshabille before this son of soot.

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suspicions were strengthened by the prisoner's initials, "J. D.," being marked on the knife left at Mr Freeman's, as well as by a hieroglyphical device upon it, expressive of his trade—viz. a house with the chimney on fire, and the chimney-sweep running towards it. At Mr Stewartson's also the depredator had left an impression of his naked foot on the floorcloth, which agreed correctly with the shape and size of Dale's foot.

This sooty rogue was committed to prison.

ARTHUR BAILEY

*Executed at Ilchester, 11th of September, 1811, for
stealing a Letter from the Post Office at Bath*

THIS unfortunate man, previous to his detection in the crime for which he suffered, lived in credit, and bore an unblemished character, supporting an amiable wife and several children by his industry. He had long been in the confidence of the postmaster of Bath, who entrusted him with sorting the letters, making up the mails, etc.

Though robberies had been frequently practised upon the office, and letters missed, yet it was some time ere suspicion fell upon Bailey as the plunderer. At length, however, justice, slow yet sure, overtook him. He was convicted, at the Summer Assizes for Somersetshire, of stealing from the Bath Post Office a letter containing bills, the property of Messrs Slack, linendrapers, and of forging an endorsement on one of the said bills.

Shortly after his conviction, Mr Bridle, the keeper of the jail, gave him a list of several letters reported to have been lost from the Bath Post Office, and which it was supposed he must have had some knowledge of. On this he wrote: "I have clearly examined this list, and there is only one I really know of, and that I have received the benefit of—must beg to be excused from saying which.—A. B." On another part of it he added: "It has been said I have had concerns with others in the Post Office; now I do

ARTHUR BAILEY

positively declare to God that I had no concerns with anyone.—A. B."

Bailey had some hopes of a reprieve till Monday, when his solicitor informed him that all applications to the Secretary of State, the Postmaster-General, and the judge who tried him, were in vain. As the prisoner could be brought to acknowledge only the crime for which he had been convicted, the under-sheriff, in consequence of several letters he had received to that effect, thought he might be brought to make a further confession; consequently, on Tuesday morning, after he had taken an affectionate and distressing leave of his wife and six children, and received the Sacrament, and had been left to himself and his own reflections some hours, Mr Melliar, with much humanity, again urged him on the matter, mentioning particular letters that had been lost; to which Bailey firmly replied: "I must request, sir, you will not press me further on this subject. I have made a solemn engagement with Almighty God that I will not disclose more than I have done, which I think would be a heinous and additional sin to break; if I had not made this engagement I would readily, sir, answer all your questions, and remove all difficulties." Afterwards he observed: "I am about to suffer for what has been truly proved against me. All the rest must die with me."

He was taken out of prison a little after eight o'clock in the morning, and placed in a cart, attended by Mr Melliar, the under-sheriff, and the chaplain of the prison, in a chaise. He showed the greatest firmness on the way to the fatal tree, and when under the gallows he joined fervently in prayer, and addressed the spectators audibly: "I hope you will all take warning"; then, holding a Prayer Book in his hand: "I beg you to look often into this book, and you will not come to shame. Be sure to be honest, and not covet money, cursed money!—and particularly money that is not your own." He was then deprived of his mortal state of existence, dying without a struggle.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

WILLIAM BEAVAN

A Burglar, who was identified by his Deformed Hand, and was executed before Newgate, 19th of September, 1811

AT the sessions at the Old Bailey, September, 1811, William Beavan was put to the bar, being indicted for breaking into and entering the dwelling-house of Mrs Mary Stratford, in Kensington, on the morning of Saturday, the 24th of August, 1811, and stealing thereout a considerable quantity of plate and other articles.

John Stratford deposed that he saw Mrs Stratford fasten all her doors and her windows the evening before the robbery was committed. Mrs Stratford was a market-gardener, and being in the habit of attending Covent Garden Market at a very early hour each market-day, she went out about half-past twelve o'clock on the night mentioned in the indictment, about her business to Covent Garden Market, and secured her doors as she was accustomed to do. In the morning, about five o'clock, when witness came to Mrs Stratford's house, he found the window had been broken and forced open, and that robbers had plundered the house.

Charles Stratford, a boy about fourteen years old, nephew to the above-mentioned witness, stated that he was awake about one o'clock (for he heard the clock strike that hour); and, listening, also heard a noise in the front room; that he called out, but receiving no answer he concluded that his grandmother (Mrs Stratford) was in the front room, and fell asleep again; but in a quarter of an hour he was roused by a noise resembling the breaking open of drawers, upon which he got out of bed and went into the front room, where he saw two men, one with a mask over his face, a pistol in one hand, and a lighted candle and an iron crow in the other. The other man had a black ribbon tied across his mouth. When he went into the room the man who had the mask on his face struck the witness twice on the side of his head, and in a coarse voice desired him to go back again

WILLIAM BEAVAN

into his bed, which witness immediately did, followed by the man who had struck him. He went into bed, and then the man who followed him into the room took a sheet of paper and covered the witness's face with it, and at last made him lie entirely under the clothes. Whilst he was in this situation the other man came into the room and threatened him that he would shoot him if he did not tell where his grandmother kept her money; but he could not. The two men then left him, and sat down in the adjoining room, where they stayed upwards of one hour and three quarters, amusing themselves with beer and greengage plums, all the time, and at last departed by the same window through which they had forced their way into the house. When they went off, and the witness could safely do it, he gave the alarm, but the thieves had escaped with their booty, having carried off plate, watches, money and other property to a considerable amount.

On his cross-examination he said that the reason why he knew the prisoner at the bar to have been one of the men who broke into his grandmother's house was because the man who struck him had no fingers on the hand that gave him the blow, and that he struck him with his right hand. He was positive of that; the more so as, when he was holding the paper on his face, and removing it again to make him lie under the bedclothes, he had a full opportunity of observing the deformed hand with much more distinctness. He further identified him from the coarseness of his voice.

The prisoner was here directed to hold up his hands, and the right was just in the state described by the boy, for it appears he was born deformed, the fingers all adhering, and not above an inch long, but with the nails on.

The jury, after remaining shut up a very considerable time, at last came into court, and returned a verdict of guilty, and the prisoner was sentenced to death. He was executed before Newgate, on the 19th of September, 1811.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

DANIEL DAVIS

A Postal Letter-Carrier, convicted at the September Sessions, 1811, at the Old Bailey, and sentenced to Death, for stealing a Letter containing Ten Pounds

DANIEL DAVIS was capitally indicted for having secreted a letter entrusted to him as one of the letter-carriers of the General Post Office, and appropriated to his own purposes a ten-pound Bank of England note contained therein.

It appeared in evidence that the letter which the prisoner was charged with having secreted had been with the usual regularity put into the post office, upon the 29th of May, 1811, at Liverpool, by a person named William Scolfield, directed to his father at the house of Mr Raynes, 25 King Street, Covent Garden. A letter of advice had been previously sent, and received by Mr Scolfield, senior, stating the number and particulars of the note which it was his son's intention to transmit to him. The letter, however, with the promised enclosure, not having arrived upon the 31st of May, Mr Scolfield, junior, went to the bank and stopped payment of the note. Until the 31st of July no information was received by which the circumstance could be elucidated; but upon that day it was paid away in the Bank of England by Messrs Robarts & Co. Mr Parken, solicitor for the Post Office, to whom previous intimation of the robbery had been given, then ascertained that Robarts & Co. had received it from Meux & Co., to whom it had been given by a publican named William Rose, who kept the Crown and Two Chairmen, Dean Street, Soho.

In the evidence of Mr Rose it appeared that he had received the note from the prisoner, whose name he put on it, and who was letter-carrier to the district in which he resided.

The usual proofs of the routine business at the Post Office having been adduced, as well as the proof of the mode by which the prisoner had obtained possession of the letter,

ELIZABETH KING

Mr Justice Heath summed up the evidence, and the jury found the prisoner guilty. He was sentenced to death.

ELIZABETH KING

*Sentenced to Death at the Old Bailey, for privately stealing
a Bag of Gold, 21st of September, 1811*

ON the 21st of September, 1811, Elizabeth King, along with Elizabeth Blott and Philadelphia Walton, were put to the bar, charged with a robbery in a dwelling-house.

Mr Barry, for the prosecution, stated the following case to the jury. The prosecutor, Mr William Coombe, a publican, lived at the King's Head public-house, Earl Street, Blackfriars. On Saturday, the 8th of June, about eight o'clock in the evening, the three prisoners came to his house, and going into a back parlour ordered some ale, which they drank. Then one of them, Elizabeth Blott, begged to sit in the bar, as she waited to see Mr Lloyd, whom she expected. Mr Coombe accordingly permitted her, and the three prisoners went into the bar together. In a short time Blott and Walton went to look for Mr Lloyd, leaving the prisoner King in the bar, from which Mr Coombe was frequently called, so that she was several times alone there. When the other two, with Mr Lloyd, returned, they all sat down a short time together, and then all departed.

At twelve o'clock at night, when Mr Coombe was going to bed, he discovered that a canvas bag, containing a silk bag and thirty-six guineas in gold, which was in his coat-pocket that hung across the back of a chair in his bar, had been carried off. Dickons, an officer of Bow Street, received information of the robbery, and through the exertions of Mr Reading, a publican, in the neighbourhood of Gray's Inn Lane, and Elizabeth Blott, one of the prisoners, the prisoner Elizabeth King was apprehended, when she immediately confessed that she only had committed the robbery. She stated that she had exchanged the guineas for bank-notes, that she spent six of them, and that she had

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deposited the notes, etc., in the hands of Mr Slyford, a publican in Brooke's Market.

The counsel for the prosecution stated that the bank-notes and three guineas, as mentioned, were delivered up by Mr Slyford; and he added that, in justice and humanity, the prisoners Walton and Blott should not have been included in the indictment, and if he had been consulted before the bill had been preferred he would not have permitted them to have been put upon their trial.

The facts, as stated, were proved, and Elizabeth King was found guilty and sentenced to death.

AGNES ADAMS

Convicted at the Middlesex Sessions, 1811, and sentenced to Six Months' Imprisonment for uttering a "Bank of Fleet" Note

BETWEEN 1808 and 1811 numberless impositions were practised upon the unwary in the metropolis in passing notes manufactured in imitation of the notes of the Bank of England. These were traced to have first originated in the Fleet Prison, a receptacle for debtors only. These notes were printed on paper similar to that used by the Bank of England; but upon the slightest inspection they were easily detected; which creates surprise at so many having been imposed upon. The great success of sharpers passing them chiefly arose from the hurry of business of those imposed upon, and from the novelty of the fraud. The shopkeeper would see the word one, two, three, etc., an exact imitation, but did not examine further, or he would have found that instead of "Pounds" the counterfeit expressed "Pence"; and this, with all the wisdom of our laws, was found not to be forgery. Instead of "Governor and Company of the Bank of England" the worthless paper substituted "Governor and Company of the Bank of Fleet." Such a gross deception we may be sure could not long be practised, and every tradesman, who had dearly been taught

RICHARD PAYNE AND JOHN MALONEY

precaution, on taking a bank-note, convinced himself that it was not a "Fleet."

The circulation of "Fleet Notes" was generally entrusted to profligate women, who cohabited with the men who made them. This mode was less suspicious, and in a single year had been carried on to a considerable amount.

Of this description—and we could adduce many such—was Agnes Adams; who, in passing one of such notes denominating twopence as a two-pound Bank of England note to Mr Spratz, a publican of St John Street, Clerkenwell, was by him detected, seized, prosecuted and convicted. The punishment could only be extended to six months' hard labour in the house of correction.

The fraternity of thieves about London have fabricated or cant names for the different articles which they steal. The "Fleet Notes" they called "Flash Screens."

RICHARD PAYNE AND JOHN MALONEY

*Convicted, October Sessions, 1811, at the Old Bailey, and
sentenced to Death, for robbing a Man whom they
had accused of being an Ex-Convict*

RICHARD PAYNE and John Maloney were put to the bar and indicted for making an assault, upon the king's highway, on William Ducketts, putting him in fear, and taking from his person, and against his will, a pocket-book, value sixpence, one Bank of England note, value ten pounds, one other Bank of England note, value five pounds, and three one-pound notes, his property.

William Ducketts deposed that he was a venetian-blind maker, and that on the night of the day mentioned in the indictment he went into a liquor shop in St Giles's and asked for some beer; but they did not sell any, and he could not be served with that article; so he called for some rum-and-water. Whilst drinking it he observed an old man in the shop, and he invited him to a glass of gin, and paid for it, and then took the old man with him across the way to a public-house, where the two prisoners, who saw him in the

NEWGATE CALENDAR

liquor shop, followed him. They all conversed together, and he treated them all. He had no sooner done this than he perceived the prisoner Payne whisper something to another man in the room (Salmon, the Bow Street officer), and immediately Salmon took him (the prosecutor) into custody and searched him, saying that he had an information against him. He answered that he was not afraid of any matter or person, but the officer proceeded to search him, and upon taking his pocket-book from his pocket examined it, and found its contents to consist of the property above mentioned, whereupon Salmon said he was misinformed, and advised him immediately to go home. All this time the two prisoners were present, and saw the notes taken out of and again restored to the pocket-book, which he placed again in his inside coat-pocket, and having paid his reckoning departed. He had not, however, proceeded many paces from the last public-house when two men rushed upon him; one of them pulled his hat over his eyes, and the other pulled back his hands, and one or the other of them said, "Come, you b—y —, your pocket-book," and they snatched it violently from his pocket, and made off.

Salmon corroborated all that part of the testimony of the prosecutor that related to the occurrences which took place during the whole of the time he was in the room of the last public-house, and he assigned as a reason for searching the prosecutor in the manner he did that one of the prisoners (Payne) had privately informed him that he, the prosecutor, was a returned convict.

Another witness, the publican, proved that both the prisoners came to his house the day after the robbery and tendered a ten-pound Bank of England note to be changed, which turned out to be the very identical note that was in Duckett's pocket-book when he was robbed.

The evidence of the prosecution being gone through, the judge, Sir Simon Le Blanc, summed up the evidence with his accustomed accuracy and precision, making suitable comments on the whole, and the jury brought in a verdict of guilty, and sentence of death was passed.

WILLIAM ROGERS

*Overseer of Carpenters, employed at the Lyceum Theatre,
transported, October Sessions, 1811, for embezzling
Timber, and making False Charges to his Employer*

MR ARNOLD, one of the proprietors of the Lyceum Theatre, having been informed that the foreman of the carpenters employed at the theatre was in the habit of purloining wood, canvas, etc., and having the same made into articles of furniture for his own use by several of the men belonging to the theatre, an inquiry took place, when it appeared that the foreman, a man named William Rogers, had long been in the practice of employing men to make him articles of household furniture, and packing-cases to convey scenes to the West Indies for the Barbados Company, out of the stock belonging to the proprietors. It was also discovered that he had made charges, as overseer, of more money paid to carpenters under his orders than they had received or were entitled to. For these frauds he was indicted at the Westminster Sessions in October, 1811, being charged with having defrauded, by means of false pretences, Messrs Thomas Sheridan and William Arnold, the proprietors of the Lyceum Theatre, of the sum of nine shillings, by falsely pretending that in his capacity of overseer of the carpenters he had paid so much money to a man of the name of William Crawford, for night work done at such theatre, whereas he did not pay him such sum of nine shillings.

Mr Gurney stated to the Court and the jury that the defendant had been employed in the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, and after in the Lyceum—altogether upwards of twenty years; that on Saturday the 12th inst. he came to the treasurer, Mr Peake, and, as was his custom, tendered him a list of workmen, and the work which they had done during the week, in which list was the name of William Crawford, to which was affixed the sum of one pound, fifteen shillings—namely, twenty-six shillings for day and nine shillings for night work, as done by him during that week—and the

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money was accordingly given to him, that he should pay it over to Crawford. It was, however, soon discovered that Crawford had not done the night work, as charged by the defendant, and, upon investigation, other circumstances occurred which led Mr Peake and the proprietors to entertain the worst opinion of the defendant. He was ultimately apprehended, and this prosecution instituted.

Mr Arnold proved the proprietorship of the theatre to be invested in Mr Thomas Sheridan and himself, and he proved other collateral matter relative to the subject more immediately in question.

Mr Peake proved that the defendant had tendered to him the list of workmen above mentioned, wherein was charged thirty-five shillings for W. Crawford, nine shillings of which was for night work.

W. Crawford was the last called, and he proved that all the defendant had paid him for that week's work was twenty-six shillings, and he further proved, to the satisfaction of the Court, that in that week so charged he had not done any night work whatsoever.

Here ended the case in support of the prosecution.

The jury brought in a verdict of guilty.

The defendant was tried upon a second indictment, accusing him with a like fraud in charging for a young man, of the name of Franklin, the sum of forty shillings, whereas he had paid him no more than twenty-five shillings, thereby defrauding the proprietors of fifteen shillings. On this he was also found guilty.

There was a third indictment against him, but Mr Gurney declined proceeding upon it. He then signified that the defendant had been guilty of like practices two years ago; but, in consideration of his family, and his apparent repentance, he was then forgiven. He was sentenced to be transported for seven years.

TUCKER, THE MOCK PARSON

*Convicted at the Middlesex Sessions, 2nd of November,
1811, for swindling a Victualler of his Wine, and
transported for Seven Years*

A N unusual crowd of very respectable persons assembled at an early hour at the Middlesex Sessions in November, 1811, to see this clerical impostor, and to hear his trial. He was put to the bar charged with obtaining goods and money under false pretences—viz. by pretending to a person of the name of William Edbrook that he was a clergyman in Holy Orders, and Rector of Frome, in Somersetshire; and, by means of these false pretences, obtaining from the said W. Edbrook three bottles of wine and one bank dollar of the value of five shillings and sixpence.

Mr Edbrook deposed that he kept the Quebec Arms, in Oxford Street. On the 1st of July, 1811, the prisoner came to his house and entered into conversation with him. It was rather late in the evening. He asked him his name; and on hearing it was Edbrook observed that he was sure he was a West Countryman, as he knew many of that name in the West of England; adding, at the same time, he was a West Countryman himself, and that his uncle was Recorder of Exeter, his name Tucker, and he himself was Rector of Frome, in Somersetshire, and that he was also curate of Park Street Chapel; also that he was intimately acquainted with Sir T. D. Ackland, Bart., and many personages of the first distinction; and that he lodged at No. 42 Green Street, Park Lane. He then inquired if his wine was such as he could recommend, and upon being answered in the affirmative ordered some wine to be sent the next day to him, as his father, sister and some friends were to dine with him. This being promised, he departed that night, and paid his reckoning.

The next day Mr Edbrook sent to know whether the prisoner did actually reside at 42 Green Street, and whether he performed service in Park Street Chapel; and his servant

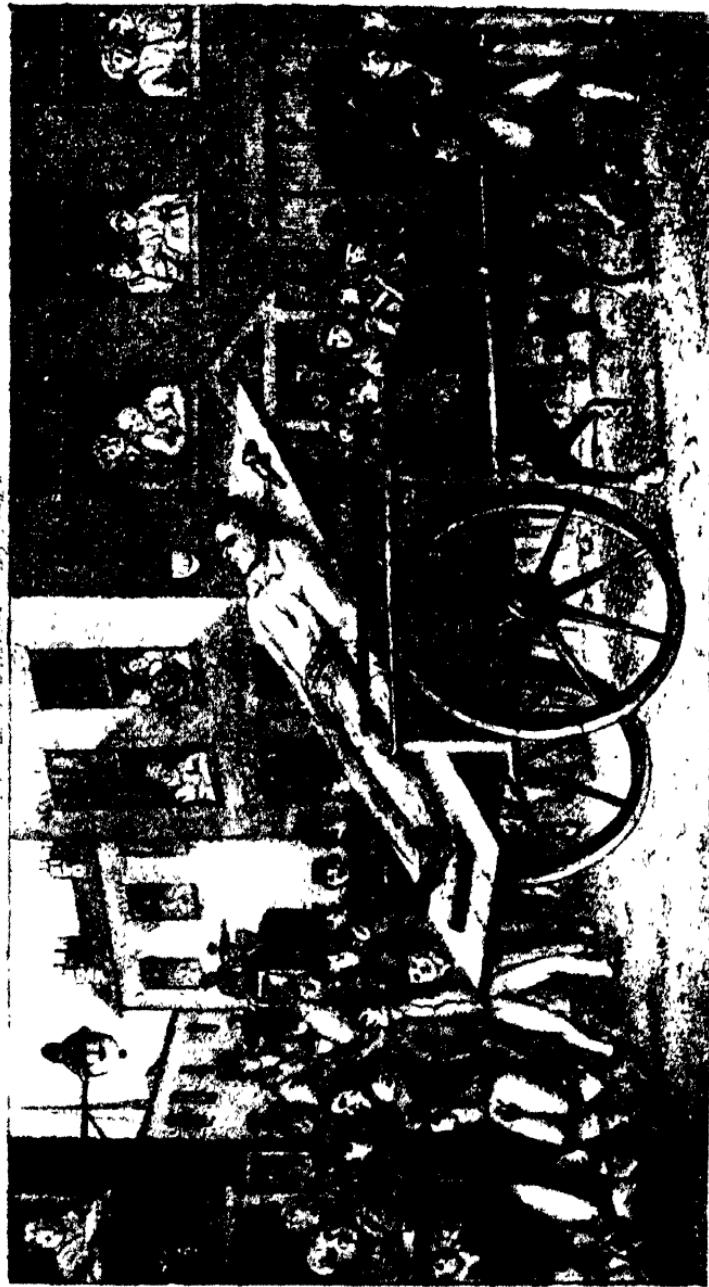
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brought back intelligence that it was all true. He then sent two bottles of sherry. The next day prisoner called on him, and drank a bottle of port, but went away without paying for it, saying, however, that he would call the following day. The following day he did call; and, talking high as before, asked if he could have a bed there that night. Mr Edbrook had no accommodation for him, as his house was all engaged, but he procured a bed for him in a neighbouring coffee-house, and he called in the morning after, and breakfasted at Mr Edbrook's. When breakfast was over he signified that he had no money about him less than a two-pound note, upon which he put on his hat and departed, and witness saw no more of him till his apprehension at Bow Street.

Benjamin Tedder said he was clerk to Park Lane Chapel. On the 22nd June last the defendant came to him and said he was appointed by the Rev. Mr Clark to assist him in the clerical functions at the chapel, and he accordingly attended the next day. He came in a gown, and was accommodated with a surplice by the witness. He went through the communion service and, after the sermon, administered the Sacrament to a considerable congregation. He also performed the evening service of that day.

The witness understood that the Rev. Mr Clark had actually engaged the defendant, being imposed upon by him. In conversation with him the defendant said he had a great number of invitations for each Sunday, and consulted with him which he should prefer, when the witness very honestly advised him to go where he should get the best wine and the best company.

The prisoner was found guilty on the second indictment, and the Court, having considered the various circumstances of his life, sentenced him to be transported for seven years.



JOHN WILLIAMS

*Who, after committing a Series of Horrible Murders, in 1811,
escaped the Gallows by hanging himself in Prison*

THE metropolis—indeed the whole nation—was never so completely horror-struck at any private calamity as at the daring and inhuman murders perpetrated, in the very heart of the City of London, at the close of the year 1811.

On a dark evening in the beginning of the month of December, about the time when tradesmen were shutting up their shops, Mr Marr, a respectable draper, sent his servant-maid to purchase some oysters for the family supper. Mr Marr was in the act of replacing goods which had been exposed to the view of customers on the counter upon their shelves. The girl left the shop door ajar, expecting to return in a very few minutes; but, unfortunately, the nearest place of sale for oysters had disposed of the whole, and she therefore went farther on her errand. Meantime two or more ruffians entered the shop, shut the door, knocked down Mr Marr, and cut his throat. Next they seized his shop-boy, and murdered him. Mrs Marr was in the kitchen, hushing her babe to sleep on her lap. Hearing an extraordinary noise and scuffling above, as was supposed, she hastily laid the child in the cradle and ran upstairs, where she was met by the bloodthirsty monsters, and seized and instantly murdered in the same way that they had dispatched Mr Marr and the boy.

The child, disturbed with being hastily laid down, cried aloud, and the villains, doubtless apprehensive that it would cause an alarm, descended and, more horrible still to relate, cut its innocent throat so as nearly to sever its tender head from its body.

By this time the girl returned with the oysters, and finding the shop door shut rang the bell; but no person answered. At this instant a watchman, passing on his round, asked what she did there; and, being answered, he pulled

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the bell with violence. This so much alarmed the villains that they made a precipitate retreat through a window in the back part of the house, across some mud, and along an intricate way, which no one that had not previously reconnoitred the situation could have readily found.

The watchman, finding the bell still unanswered, went to the next-door neighbour, and gave an alarm. Some three or four men collecting together, it was determined to scale the wall which divided Mr Marr's back premises from those of the adjoining house. This was done without much loss of time, and there was presented the most woeful scene that, perhaps, ever disgraced human nature: the bodies of Mr Marr and his shop-boy, the latter of whom appeared from evident marks to have struggled for life with the assassins, near each other; that of Mrs Marr in the passage; and the infant in its cradle—all dead, but yet warm and weltering in their blood. The horrible scene for a moment petrified those who first entered; and they naturally feared the murderers might still be in the house plundering the property therein. They opened the street door and called out an alarm of murder, which spread with such rapidity that the neighbourhood was very soon in an alarm. The nightly watch mustered, and the drum of the melancholy beat to arms—in fine, though now near midnight, so great a crowd assembled that it was necessary to shut the doors while someone explained the cause of the alarm to those in the street.

The coroner's jury, sitting upon the inquest of the deaths of this unfortunate family, brought in their verdict—"Guilty of wilful murder against some person or persons unknown."

The interment of Mr and Mrs Marr and their infant son took place on Sunday, the 15th of December, 1811, at St George's Church in the East.

The procession entered the aisle of the church in the following order:—the body of Mr Marr; the bodies of Mrs Marr and infant; the father and mother of Mr Marr; the mother of Mrs Marr; the four sisters of Mrs Marr;

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the only brother of Mr Marr ; the next in relationship to the deceased ; the friends of Mr and Mrs Marr.

After the church ceremony the corpses were conveyed into the burial-ground, and deposited in one grave.

An immense crowd attended, but the utmost decorum prevailed.

Would that our sad tale of blood ended here ! It is our painful task to record another instance of human atrocity, and, in universal belief, committed by the same relentless monster—another family doomed to the same horrid death ; and they resided a very short distance from the spot where lived the late unfortunate Mr Marr.

Scarcely had the horror excited by the mysterious and barbarous destruction of those unfortunate persons subsided than the neighbourhood in which they resided became again a scene of confusion, horror and dismay ; and, by the spectacle which was presented on Thursday night, the 19th of December, 1811, a new and irresistible feeling of alarm pervaded all the inhabitants, lest some of their domestic circles should next become the object of midnight assassination.

The circumstances of the horrid event to which we allude—as far as we have been able to collect them, from the most minute inquiry and investigation—are as follows.

On Thursday night, the 19th of December, 1811, shortly after eleven o'clock, the neighbourhood of New Gravel Lane was alarmed by the most dreadful cries of "Murder!" Opposite the King's Arms public-house, at No. 81 Gravel Lane, numbers soon collected, and immediately it was ascertained that the cries which had excited such general alarm came from a man who was seen descending, almost in a state of nudity, by a line formed by the junction of two sheets, from the two pair-of-stairs window of the house in question. On reaching the extremity of the sheets, which was nearly eight feet from the ground, he was assisted by the watchman, who caught him in his arms, when he cried out, in the greatest agitation : "They are murdering the

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people in the house ! " These words were no sooner uttered than a short consultation was held by the people assembled, and it was at once resolved that an entry should be forced into the house through the cellar flap. This was shortly accomplished, and a man named Ludgate, a butcher, living in Ashwell's Buildings, Gravel Lane, and Mr Hawse, and a constable, entered ; and almost at the same moment a gentleman, named Fox, obtained an entrance through some wooden bars at the side of the house, with a cutlass in his hand. On looking round the cellar, the first object that attracted their attention was the body of Mr Williamson, which lay at the foot of the stairs, with a violent contusion on the head, his throat dreadfully cut, and an iron crow by his side ; they then proceeded upstairs into the parlour, where they found Mrs Williamson also dead, with her skull and her throat cut, and blood still issuing from the wounds, and near her lay the body of the servant-woman, whose head was also horribly bruised, and her throat cut in the most shocking manner.

Of the many examinations which took place at the Shadwell police office, the investigations of Mr Graham of the Bow Street office, and many other active magistrates, we shall select such as fix these most dreadful crimes upon a man of the name of John Williams, said to have been an Irishman, who evaded justice by committing the additional sin of suicide.

This man was apprehended as one of the murderers. When the jailer went to the room in the house of correction in Coldbath Fields where Williams was confined, in order to call him to his last examination before the Shadwell police magistrates, his body was found dead, hanging to a beam ; thus adding to his manifold crimes that of self-murder.

On the last day of this fatal year the remains of this sanguinary assassin—for from the circumstances which developed not a doubt could exist but that he was a principal in the late horrible massacres—were privately removed, at eleven o'clock at night, from the cell in Coldbath

JOHN WILLIAMS

Fields Prison, where he committed suicide, and conveyed to St George's watch-house, near the London Docks, preparatory to interment. Mr Capper, the magistrate, had an interview with the Secretary for the Home Department, for the purpose of considering with what propriety the usual practice of burying suicides at the nearest cross-roads might be departed from in the present instance, and it was then determined that a public exhibition should be made of the body through the neighbourhood which had been the scene of the monster's crimes.

In conformity with this decision, the following procession moved from the watch-house, about half-past ten o'clock on Tuesday morning :—several hundred constables, with their staves, clearing the way; the newly formed patrol, with drawn cutlasses; another body of constables; parish officers of St George's, St Paul's and Shadwell, on horseback; peace officers on horseback; constables; the High Constable of the County of Middlesex on horseback; the body of Williams, extended at full length on an inclined platform, erected on a cart, about four feet high at the head, and gradually sloping towards the horse, giving a full view of the body, which was dressed in blue trousers and a white-and-blue-striped waistcoat, but without a coat, as when found in the cell. On the left side of the head the fatal maul and on the right the ripping chisel, with which the murders were perpetrated, were exposed to view. The countenance of Williams was ghastly in the extreme, and the whole had an appearance too horrible for description. A strong body of constables brought up the rear.

The procession advanced slowly up Ratcliff Highway, accompanied by an immense concourse of persons, eager to get a sight of the murderer's remains. When the cart came opposite to the late Mr Marr's house a halt was made for nearly a quarter of an hour. The procession then moved down Old Gravel Lane, along Wapping, up New Crane Lane, and into New Gravel Lane. When the procession arrived at Mr Williamson's house a second halt took place. It then proceeded up the hill, and again entered

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Ratcliff Highway, down which it moved into Cannon Street, and advanced to St George's Turnpike, where the new road is intersected by Cannon Street. There a grave, about six feet deep, had been prepared, immediately over which the main water-pipe runs. Between twelve and one o'clock the body was taken from the platform and lowered into the grave, immediately after which a stake was driven through it ; and, the pit being covered, this solemn ceremony concluded.

COLONEL BROWNE

*An American Loyalist, convicted in the Court of King's Bench at Westminster, 21st of February, 1812,
of Forgery at Common Law, and Sentenced
to Imprisonment in Newgate*

THIS was an information against the defendant, Colonel Browne, for a forgery at common law. The information charged him with having forged certain instruments, purporting to be signed by George Harrison, Esq., one of the law clerks to the Treasury, and by the Hon. Cecil Jenkinson, Esq., one of the under-secretaries of State, with a view to defrauding the Government, by surreptitiously obtaining a grant of six thousand acres of land in the island of St Vincent.

Mr Attorney-General stated the circumstances of the case as follows.

In the year 1809 Colonel Browne represented to the Government that he had a large gang of negroes which he had nurtured with particular care, and had succeeded in reducing them to such domestic habits that they multiplied as fast as by the course of nature they would die off, and he prayed for an allotment of the Crown lands in the island of St Vincent. It was thought that he had claims on the Government of this country, having suffered as an American Loyalist ; and as the Government had at that time a part of the lands formerly allotted to the Caribs, in consequence a grant was made to him of six thousand acres. It was dis-

COLONEL BROWNE

covered that a part of these lands had been granted to other occupiers, who held at the will of the Crown, and as they had expended their money to reduce the land to a state of cultivation it was thought inequitable to expel them, and they therefore were allowed to purchase, which was done to the amount of sixty thousand pounds. But, in order to indemnify Colonel Browne for this disappointment, Government gave him half the money—namely, thirty thousand pounds—which was considered a munificent recompence. It happened however shortly afterwards, in the year 1810, that Sir Charles Brisbane, the Governor of St Vincent, received a dispatch, under the official seal of the Secretary of State's office, directing him to make a grant of the same quantity of land which had been deducted from the six thousand acres of land originally granted to Colonel Browne, which direction purported to be by order of the Lords of the Treasury, and was signed by Mr Jenkinson, the Under-Secretary of State. A discussion, however, ensuing with Colonel's Browne's agent, the Governor thought proper to send home for instructions, when it was discovered that the whole was a forgery, no such orders having ever issued from the Secretary of State's office in England. How Colonel Browne got possession of the seal of office the Attorney-General was unable to state, but he was able to prove that the papers were written, all but the signatures, in the office of a Mr Stevens, a law stationer in Chancery Lane, and that Colonel Browne brought the rough draft, and took them away when finished. The plan which accompanied them was drawn by a clerk in the Duke of Bedford's office, who was employed by Colonel Browne, who was traced through giving directions for the forged instruments. It was also proved no other persons had any interest in the fraud. Under these circumstances no doubt could be entertained of the guilt of the defendant.

These circumstances were proved by Sir Charles Brisbane, Mr Harrison, and Mr Stevens and his clerks, who engrossed the papers by Colonel Browne's direction.

Lord Moira, Sir Alured Clarke, and several gentlemen

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of rank, gave a high character to Colonel Browne; but the jury, without hesitation, found him guilty. He was sentenced to imprisonment in Newgate.

BENJAMIN WALSH, Esq., M.P.

Convicted in 1812 of feloniously stealing a Large Sum of Money from Sir Thomas Plomer, his Majesty's Solicitor-General, and pardoned on a Case reserved for the Opinion of the Twelve Judges

MR BENJAMIN WALSH had long been known in the City of London as a dashing mercantile character. In copartnership with Mr Nisbett he contracted with the Chancellor of the Exchequer for a lottery of fifty thousand tickets. This proved, to such a man as Walsh, a very lucky speculation. He rubbed off his debts by a Statute of Bankruptcy, and soon procured for himself a seat in the Parliament of his country.

Walsh and Nisbett hustled through their broken fortunes; and, from the counting-house desk, the former, as we have already observed, was placed in the seat of a legislator for his country. There, among "the great men, the grave men, and the sage men of the land," he beheld a fair field for the exercise of his talents. Elevation to rank and power soon wipes away every former stain of reputation, and effaces each blot of character.

Among the dignified of the House of Commons, Sir Thomas Plomer, it seemed, had not a whit worse opinion of his brother Member, Walsh, than if no lottery contract had been made, nor any bankruptcy against him issued forth. In short, Sir Thomas entrusted him with a very large sum of money to purchase Government securities; but Walsh laid it out in the stocks of the United States of America in his own name, and ran off towards that land of refuge for the guilty. He was, however, fortunately overtaken by the arm of justice at the port from whence he intended to fly his native country.

BENJAMIN WALSH

Walsh was pursued, by the solicitor of the duped knight and a Bow Street runner, to Falmouth ; to which port it was discovered he had fled by stopping his letters, under a government order, at the General Post Office. Young Members of Parliament were fond of franking the letters of their friends ; and it appeared that Walsh was so very tenacious of this prerogative that, in an ignominious concealed flight, he still endorsed his letters : " FREE B. WALSH."

This degenerate legislator for his country was, like the meanest felon, arraigned at the bar of the Old Bailey, charged with feloniously stealing twenty-two bank-notes of one thousand pounds each, and one bank-note for two hundred pounds, the property of Sir Thomas Plomer, Kt., with intent to defraud him of the said sum of money ; in other counts of the indictment the offence was variously charged, to which the prisoner pleaded not guilty.

Mr Garrow, in stating the case on the part of the prosecution, observed that if it had been possible for the prosecutor in this action to have extended indulgence or commiseration towards the unfortunate prisoner at the bar, the honourable and humane feelings and character of the prosecutor would have most willingly abstained from the present prosecution ; but from the nature of the case he was called upon to discharge an important public duty which was indispensable. The prosecutor was his Majesty's Solicitor-General, and had long been acquainted with the gentleman whom he had now the painful duty to prosecute. His father had been a director of the Bank of England, and from this the prosecutor was induced to trust the prisoner as a stockbroker. He then proceeded to state the case as it appeared in evidence, from which he concluded, that at the time of the prisoner's getting the means into his power, it was his intention to perpetrate the felony.

Sir Thomas Plomer, being sworn, stated that he had for many years employed the prisoner as a stockbroker, and in the month of August last apprised him that he had made a contract for the purchase of an estate, for which he was to

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pay at Michaelmas, and it would be necessary for him to sell out stock to a considerable amount. The prisoner advised at that time to postpone selling out, as he expected a considerable rise in stock, and the longer he postponed it the better; but in November the prisoner urged him strongly to sell out, as stock would fall considerably, saying he had consulted the most intelligent persons upon the subject. In consequence of this he gave him authority to sell out stock to the amount of thirteen thousand, four hundred pounds of three per cents., and eighteen thousand, six hundred pounds of reduced Consols. On the following day he called at the prisoner's office in the city, who told him he had made the contract for the sale, and it was agreed to be transferred on the Wednesday or Thursday following, which accordingly took place. He then consulted the prisoner on the best way of disposing of the money until he should want it, and he advised the purchase of Exchequer bills, but it was then, he said, too late in the day for that purpose. The next day the prisoner called at his chambers at Lincoln's Inn, and gave him a cheque on Messrs Goslings, his bankers, for twenty-two thousand pounds, for the purpose of purchasing these Exchequer bills, and he promised to return with them that day at four o'clock; this was on Thursday, the 5th of December. He returned about half-past four, appeared agitated, and complained of an asthma; and after a little pause told him he had made the contract with Mr Trotter, Mr Coutts's broker; but the Exchequer bills could not be delivered until Saturday, as they were locked up in the bank, and Mr Coutts was not in town; and that he should call on that day at three o'clock. At that time he produced six thousand pounds in Exchequer bills, which he said he would lodge with his bankers, along with the receipt for the balance. He afterwards inquired at his bankers, and found the Exchequer bills for six thousand pounds were lodged, but no receipt, and he never saw the prisoner after until he saw him in Bow Street.

William Ewins, clerk at Goslings & Co.'s, proved the payment of the cheque for twenty-two thousand pounds to

BENJAMIN WALSH

the prisoner in person ; Mr William Hannan proved the purchase of six thousand, five hundred pounds in Exchequer bills, by order of the prisoner ; and George Hankley, his clerk, proved the delivery of them to the prisoner.

The case on the part of the prosecution being closed, the prisoner declined making any defence.

Mr Scarlet, for the prisoner, in addressing the Court, hoped he would not be understood to entertain any other sentiments of this offence than a conviction of the moral turpitude of the prisoner—and he was satisfied the prisoner himself entertained no other sentiment, and felt all the contrition belonging to such a crime—but it now became his duty to make such objections as occurred to him. First, there could be no charge of this sort for stealing the cheque, for it was in evidence the prosecutor had given it to the prisoner for a specific purpose ; and it was not altogether misapplied, for he had purchased some Exchequer bills, and the law did not allow the act of felony to be in part separated. The second objection was under the statute of the second year of the reign of George II., by which the security intended by the legislature was to such property as was still available to the party himself—in this case the prosecutor had parted with all control over the cheque by delivering it to the prisoner. Thirdly, the felonious intent of the party taking was not in itself sufficient to constitute a felony when the party to whom the property belonged had relinquished his control over it. In support of these objections, he referred to several cases in point.

After some observations by Mr Garrow, Mr Scarlet and Mr Alley, it was agreed that the jury should find a verdict subject to the future judgment of the twelve judges upon the Chief Baron's report.

The Chief Baron acquiesced in this arrangement, and then, addressing the jury, adverted to that part of the evidence which went to show the previous intent of the prisoner to commit the felony ; observing, at the same time, that it was impossible, upon such evidence, not to find the prisoner guilty ; who, in consequence of the objections made by his

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counsel, would have all the benefit of the judgment of the twelve judges hereafter.

The jury immediately returned a verdict of guilty.

During the whole of the trial the prisoner was much affected. The court was exceedingly crowded from an early hour, and several Members of both Houses of Parliament attended to witness this extraordinary trial.

The judges who presided at the trial of Walsh, by no means satisfied with the verdict, reserved a case for their brethren. The result of their opinion will be found in the following report of the Lord Chief Baron, and the pardon of the Prince Regent :—

THE LORD CHIEF BARON TO MR SECRETARY RYDER

February 15, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, that Benjamin Walsh was indicted before me at the last sessions held at the Old Bailey, for stealing from Sir Thomas Plomer a certain order for the payment of twenty-two thousand, two hundred pounds, and also stealing bank-notes to that amount.

The facts of his having formed the design of converting this money to his use, and of actually so converting much the greater part of it, were proved without contradiction.

But doubts having occurred to Mr Justice I.e Blanc and myself (Mr Justice Chambre being absent from indisposition), the case was reserved for the judges to consider whether the facts proved amounted to the crime of larceny.

The argument of counsel concluded last night; and the case was considered by ten judges present (two being confined by illness), who were of opinion that the facts proved did not, in estimation of law, amount to felony.

The prisoner having been convicted of that offence, I am humbly to recommend him as a *proper object* of his Majesty's pardon. I am, etc.

(Signed) AR. MACDONALD.

GEORGE SKENE

BENJAMIN WALSH—FREE PARDON

In the Name and on Behalf of his Majesty.—GEORGE, P. R.

Whereas Benjamin Walsh was, at a Session holden at the Old Bailey in January last, tried and convicted of felony, but judgment was respite; We, in consideration of some circumstances humbly represented unto Us, touching the said conviction, are graciously pleased to extend Our grace and mercy unto him, and to grant him Our Free Pardon for his said crime: Our will and pleasure therefore is, you cause the said Benjamin Walsh to be forthwith discharged out of custody; and for so doing this shall be your Warrant.

Given at our Court at Carleton House, the 20th day of February, 1812, in the fifty-second year of our Reign.

By the Command of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty,

R. RYDER.

To our trusty and well-beloved our Justices of Gaol Delivery for the City of London and County of Middlesex, the Sheriffs of the said City and County, and all others whom it may concern.

The Commons expelled Walsh from his seat in their House; and he was again made a bankrupt, whereupon poor Sir Thomas found himself entitled only to a pitiful dividend under the second commission.

GEORGE SKENE

Chief Clerk of the Queen Square Police Office, Westminster.

*Executed before Newgate, 18th of March, 1812,
for Forgery*

GEORGE SKENE, who was chief clerk of the Queen Square police office, Westminster, was indicted at the Old Bailey on the 15th of January, 1812, and brought to trial at the bar of that court. The indictment charged him

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with uttering forged receipts for the payments of money, in four instances, with intent to defraud his Majesty.

Mr Abbott opened the case, and it appeared that the prisoner had presented forged receipts from four different persons, purporting to have been signed by them—viz. thirty-six pounds, eight shillings which was charged to him; seventeen pounds, nine shillings; eleven pounds, ten shillings for printing, when the printer's bill was four pounds, eleven shillings. There were two other forged receipts, purporting to be from Mr Ryder, for rent, and Mr Stanton, for stationery, with considerable additional charges.

The principal witness was Mr Baldwin, receiver-general to the several police offices, who settled accounts quarterly with each office, with a statement from the chief clerk at each office, of fines, fees, etc., received by the office—the salaries of the magistrates excepted. He believed the forged receipts in question to be in the prisoner's handwriting. The prisoner attended on witness at the Secretary of State's office, where he presented the forged vouchers. The fees and fines obtained at the office were given to witness, in part payment of the police establishment, but such were inadequate to the demand. The prisoner's salary was two hundred pounds a year.

The forgeries were severally proved to the four receipts by the handwriting, which was proved to be the prisoner's.

The prisoner, being called on for his defence, stated that his embarrassment prevented him from addressing the Bench, but he declared to God and his conscience he had no intention to wrong anyone, and he attributed the error in his accounts to his having been absent five hundred miles from London on professional business.

The Marquis of Huntly gave the prisoner an excellent character. He had known him many years, and he had always considered him a man of strict integrity, incapable of an act of injustice.

The other witnesses to character were chiefly magistrates—viz. Messrs Nares, Fielding, Storey, Carrick, Rhode, Bernie, etc., and Captain Duff of the navy. The above

GEORGE SKENE

gentlemen spoke in the highest terms of the prisoner's honesty and integrity.

The Lord Chief Baron, in summing up the evidence, observed that such a character of a prisoner was perhaps never heard in any court. He observed that the character of a well-spent life had its weight in cases of doubt, but where the weight of evidence was conclusive against a prisoner it was much to be lamented that character had been forfeited. If any doubt existed (but he, the judge, could point out none) the jury would give the prisoner the benefit.

He was found guilty and sentenced to death.

From the moment of the conviction of this unhappy man till the Friday before his execution he was buoyed up by the hope of the Royal mercy; and a paragraph appeared in some of the public prints stating that he had received the Royal pardon. But these hopes were dissipated on the Friday before his execution, when he was given to understand that he had no mercy to expect. He expressed his perfect resignation to his fate. In the course of Tuesday, the day before his execution, many of his most intimate friends took their leave; and about four o'clock he, in company with Lord Robert Seymour, took the Sacrament.

At an early hour on Wednesday, the 18th of March, 1812, he was attended by the ordinary of Newgate, until summoned to the press-yard; from whence, at eight o'clock, he proceeded to the scaffold. Previous to ascending the platform he seemed considerably affected, but after a few seconds he resumed his fortitude, and taking off his hat advanced, and submitted himself to the executioner, who, having performed his melancholy office, retired, leaving Dr Ford with him in prayer. In two minutes afterwards the platform fell. After being suspended the usual time, the body was cut down, placed in a coffin, and carried within the prison, where it remained until eight o'clock that evening, and was then delivered to his friends.

The deceased was of a most respectable family in the north of Scotland. His wife, who was burnt to death about

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four years before, had been previously the wife of the Earl of Fife, then Mr Duff. He was formerly clerk at the Shadwell police office, and from thence went to the Queen Square office as chief clerk. He had received a good education, and possessed considerable mental acquirements.

JOHN BELLINGHAM

Executed for the Murder of the Right Honourable Spencer Perceval, Chancellor of the Exchequer, by shooting him in the House of Commons, in May, 1812

ON the 11th of May, in the year 1812, an event occurred which excited deep regret in the minds of the whole of the British public—the death of the Right Honourable Spencer Perceval, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, by the hand of an assassin.

John Bellingham, the author of this crime, was brought up in a counting-house in London, and afterwards went to Archangel, where he lived during a period of three years in the service of a Russian merchant. Having returned to England, he was married to a Miss Nevill, the daughter of a respectable merchant and shipbroker, who at that time resided at Newry, but who subsequently removed to Dublin.

Bellingham, being a person of active habits and of considerable intelligence, was subsequently employed by some merchants in the Russian trade, by whom he was induced again to visit Archangel, and he in consequence proceeded thither, accompanied by his wife, in the year 1804. His principal dealings were with the firm of Dorbecker & Co.; but before twelve months had expired a misunderstanding arose between them, and each party made pecuniary claims upon the other. The subject was referred by the Governor-General to the decision of four merchants, two of whom Bellingham was allowed to select from his countrymen resident on the spot, and by the award of these arbitrators Bellingham was found to be indebted to the house of Dorbecker & Co. in the sum of two thousand roubles; but

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JOHN BELLINGHAM

this sum he refused to pay, and appealed to the Senate against the decision.

In the meantime a criminal suit had been instituted against him by the owners of a Russian ship which had been lost in the White Sea. They accused him of having written an anonymous letter to the underwriters in London, stating that the insurances of that ship were fraudulent transactions ; in consequence of which the payment for her loss was resisted. No satisfactory proof being adduced, Bellingham was acquitted ; but before the termination of the suit he attempted to quit Archangel, and being stopped by the police, whom he resisted, he was taken to prison, but was soon after liberated, through the influence of the British consul, Sir Stephen Shairp, to whom he had made application, requesting to be protected from what he considered the injustice of the Russian authorities.

Soon after this the Senate confirmed the award of the arbitrators, and Bellingham was delivered over to the College of Commerce, a tribunal established, and acknowledged by treaty, for taking cognisance of commercial matters relating to British subjects. He was to remain in custody till he discharged the debt of the two thousand roubles ; but his confinement was by no means severe, for he had permission to walk wherever he pleased, attended by an officer belonging to the College. Lord Granville Leveson Gower being at this time ambassador at the Russian Court, Bellingham made frequent application, and at various times received from his secretary small sums of money to support him during his confinement. One night, in particular, he rushed into his lordship's house at St Petersburg, and requested permission to remain all night to avoid being secured by the police, whom he had escaped. This was granted, although the ambassador had no authority to protect him from a legal arrest ; but it appears he was afterwards retaken, and, being confined by the authorities of the country, the British ambassador could have no pretence to solicit his release. His lordship, however, in a conversation with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, expressed a personal

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wish that the Russian Government, seeing no prospect of recovering the money from Bellingham, would liberate him on condition of his immediately returning to England; but we are not told what effect was produced, as the ambassador soon after quitted the Russian Court.

Bellingham having, by some means or other, procured his liberation, in the year 1809 returned to England, and at Liverpool commenced the business of an insurance-broker. It appears, however, that, from a constant recital of the circumstances which had occurred in Russia, his complaints were aggravated in his own mind into grievances, and he at length began to talk of demanding redress from the Government for what he termed the culpable misconduct of the officer, Lord Granville Leveson Gower, and his secretary, in omitting to defend his rights as a British subject. He eventually wrote to the Marquis Wellesley, setting forth the nature of his case and the grounds upon which he expected that some compensation would be made. By the noble Marquis he was referred to the Privy Council, and by that body to the Treasury. His efforts being unattended with success in either quarter, he determined to proceed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr Perceval), with a view to obtaining his sanction and support for his demand. Mr Perceval, however—having made himself master of the case submitted to him—declined to interfere, and Mr Bellingham was then advised by his friends that the only resource left to him was a petition to Parliament. As an inhabitant of Liverpool, he applied to General Gascoyne, then Member for that city, to present a petition to the House of Commons; but that honourable gentleman, having ascertained upon inquiry that the case was unsupported by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, refused to have anything to do with it. Driven now to pursue a course quite unusual in such cases, he petitioned the Prince Regent; but from him he was referred again to the Treasury, and he again received an intimation that all applications from him must be futile. Three years had now been spent in these constant and fruitless attacks upon the Government, but

JOHN BELLINGHAM

the unfortunate and misguided gentleman appeared even yet to cherish hopes that his case would be attended to. On one occasion, it is reported, he carried his wife—who had in vain striven to wean him from what she considered to be his malady—and another lady to the Secretary of State's office for the purpose of showing them the success with which his exertions were attended; and although he then, as he had before, received a flat denial of his claims, he yet continued to assure them that he did not in the least doubt that ere long all his hopes would be made good, and he would receive compensation for his sufferings.

He now adopted a new, and certainly an unprecedented, mode of attack. He wrote to the police magistrates of Bow Street in the following terms:—

TO THEIR WORSHIPS THE POLICE MAGISTRATES OF
THE PUBLIC OFFICE IN BOW STREET

SIRS,—I much regret its being my lot to have to apply to your worships under most peculiar and novel circumstances. For the particulars of the case I refer to the enclosed letter of Mr Secretary Ryder, the notification from Mr Perceval, and my petition to Parliament, together with the printed papers herewith. The affair requires no further remark than that I consider his Majesty's Government to have completely endeavoured to close the door of justice, in declining to have, or even to permit, my grievances to be brought before Parliament for redress, which privilege is the birth-right of every individual. The purport of the present is, therefore, once more to solicit his Majesty's Ministers, through your medium, to let what is right and proper be done in my instance, which is all I require. Should this reasonable request be finally denied, I shall then feel justified in executing justice myself—in which case I shall be ready to argue the merits of so reluctant a measure with his Majesty's Attorney-General, wherever and whenever I may be called upon so to do. In the hopes of averting so

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abhorrent but compulsive an alternative I have the honour
to be, sirs, your very humble and obedient servant,

JOHN BELLINGHAM.

No. 9 NEW MILLMAN STREET,
March 23, 1812.

This letter was at once conveyed to the Members of the Government, but it was treated by them as a mere threat, and no further notice was taken of it than, on Mr Bellingham's again presenting himself, by a fresh refusal being given to him by Mr Read. Once more he applied to the Treasury, and again he was told that he had nothing to expect; and, according to his statement, Mr Hill, whom he now saw, told him that he might resort to whatever measures he thought fit. This he declared he considered a *carte blanche* to take justice into his own hands, and he accordingly determined to take such measures of revenge as he madly supposed would effectually secure that attention and consideration for his case which he deemed it had not received, and to which it was in his opinion fully entitled.

This unhappy determination being made, he began to make the necessary preparations for the foul deed which he contemplated. His first step was to make himself acquainted with the persons of those Ministers who had seats in the House of Commons, and for this purpose he nightly visited the House, and there usually took his seat in the gallery appropriated to strangers; and, having obtained a general knowledge of their persons, he afterwards posted himself in the lobby of the House, in order to be able to identify them. He then purchased a pair of pistols, with powder and ball, and had an additional pocket made in his coat for carrying them the more conveniently.

On the evening of the 11th of May, 1812, he took his station behind the folding-doors leading into the body of the House, and at five o'clock, as Mr Perceval advanced up the lobby, he presented one of his pistols and fired. His aim was true, and the ball entered the left breast of his victim and passed through his heart. Mr Perceval reeled a short distance, and exclaiming, "Murder!" in a low tone of

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voice, fell to the ground. He was instantly picked up by Mr Smith, Member for Norwich, and another gentleman, and carried into the office of the Speaker's secretary, where he expired almost immediately. Loud cries of "Shut the door; let no one out!" were heard immediately after the shot was fired, and several persons exclaimed: "Where's the murderer?" Bellingham, who still held the pistol in his hand, answered, "I am the unfortunate man," and he was immediately seized and searched. Mr V. G. Dowling was among the first who went up to him, and on his examining his person he found in his left-hand trousers-pocket a pistol loaded with ball and primed. There were also found upon him an opera-glass, with which he had been accustomed to examine the persons of the Members of the House while sitting in the gallery, and a number of papers. Upon his being interrogated as to his motives for committing such an act he replied: "Want of redress, and denial of justice."

During the momentary confusion which followed the firing of the pistol he made no attempt to escape; and though when taken into custody he betrayed some agitation, he soon recovered his self-possession, and with great calmness answered every question put to him.

During his examination before the magistrates upstairs in the House of Commons he still retained his self-possession, and even corrected a witness as to an omission in his evidence. He persisted in denying any personal enmity to Mr Perceval, for whose death he expressed the greatest sorrow, separating, by a confusion of ideas, the man from the Minister; and seemed to think he had not injured the individual though he had taken away the life of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

This event excited the greatest sensation in the country. A Cabinet Council was called, and the mails were stopped, until instructions were prepared to secure tranquillity in the districts; for at first it was apprehended that the assassin was instigated by political motives, and that he was connected with some treasonable association.

Measures being provided for securing order through the

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country and the metropolis, Bellingham was removed, under a strong military escort, about one o'clock in the morning, to Newgate, and conducted to a room adjoining the chapel. One of the head turnkeys and two other persons sat up with him all night. He retired to bed soon after his arrival at the jail; but he was disturbed during the night, and had no sound sleep. He rose soon after seven o'clock, and requested some tea for breakfast, of which, however, he took but little. No private persons were admitted to see him, but he was visited in the course of the day by the sheriffs and some other public functionaries. He conversed very cheerfully with the sheriffs and others who were in his room, and stated that the question would soon be tried, when it would be seen how far he was justified. He considered the whole as a private matter between him and the Government, who gave him a *carte blanche* to do his worst, which he had done.

On the 15th of May, 1812, four days after the death of Mr Perceval, the trial of the prisoner came on at the Old Bailey. The judges at ten o'clock took their seats on each side of the Lord Mayor; and the recorder, the Duke of Clarence, the Marquis Wellesley and almost all the aldermen of the City of London occupied the bench. The court was crowded to excess, and no distinction of rank was observed, so that Members of the House of Commons were forced to mingle in the throng. There were also present a great number of ladies, all led by the most intense curiosity to behold the assassin, and to hear what he might urge in defence or in palliation of his atrocious act.

At length Bellingham appeared, and advanced to the bar with a firm step, and quite undismayed. He bowed to the Court most respectfully, and even gracefully; and it is impossible to describe the impression which his appearance, accompanied by this unexpected fortitude, produced. He was dressed in a light brown surtout coat and striped yellow waistcoat; his hair plainly dressed, and without powder.

The Attorney-General opened the case at length for the prosecution, and called several witnesses. For Bellingham, witnesses were called who expressed the belief that he was

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insane. After Lord Chief Justice Mansfield had summed up, the jury retired, and after an absence of fourteen minutes returned a verdict of guilty, and sentence of death was then passed, and the prisoner was ordered for execution on the following Monday.

From the time of his condemnation the unfortunate convict was fed upon bread and water. All means of suicide were removed, and he was not allowed to be shaved—a prohibition which gave him much concern, as he feared he should not appear as a gentleman. He was visited by the ordinary on Saturday, and some religious gentlemen called on him on Sunday, with whose conversation he seemed greatly pleased. He appeared naturally depressed by his situation; but persisted in a resolute denial of his guilt. He frequently said that he had prepared himself to go to his Father, and that he should be pleased when the hour came.

Being informed by Mr Newman that two gentlemen from Liverpool had called, and left word that his wife and children would be provided for, he seemed but little affected; but, having requested pen, ink and paper, he wrote the following letter to his wife :—

MY BLESSED MARY,—It rejoiced me beyond measure to hear you are likely to be well provided for. I am sure the public at large will participate in, and mitigate, your sorrows; I assure you, my love, my sincerest endeavours have ever been directed to your welfare. As we shall not meet any more in this world, I sincerely hope we shall do so in the world to come. My blessing to the boys, with kind remembrance to Miss Stephens, for whom I have the greatest regard, in consequence of her uniform affection for them. With the purest intentions, it has always been my misfortune to be thwarted, misrepresented and ill-used in life; but however, we feel a happy prospect of compensation in a speedy translation to life eternal. It's not possible to be more calm or placid than I feel, and nine hours more will waft me to those happy shores where bliss is without alloy.
Yours ever affectionate,

JOHN BELLINGHAM.

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On the Monday morning, at about six o'clock, he rose and dressed himself with great composure, and read for half-an-hour in the Prayer Book. Dr Ford being then announced, the prisoner shook him most cordially by the hand, and left his cell for the room allotted for the condemned criminals. He repeated the declaration which he had frequently before made, that his mind was perfectly calm and composed, and that he was fully prepared to meet his fate with resignation. Just before he left the room to proceed to the place of execution he stooped down his head, and appeared to wipe away a tear. He was then conducted by the Lord Mayor, sheriffs, under-sheriffs and officers (Dr Ford walking with him) from the room in which he had remained from the time his irons were taken off, through the press-yard and the prison to the fatal spot, before the debtors' door at Newgate.

He ascended the scaffold with rather a light step, a cheerful countenance and a confident, calm, but not exulting, air. The fastening on of the cap being accomplished, the executioner retired, and a perfect silence ensued. Dr Ford continued praying for about a minute, while the executioner went below the scaffold, and preparations were made to strike away its supports. The clock struck eight, and while it was striking the seventh time, the clergyman and Bellingham both fervently praying, the supports of the internal part of the scaffold were struck away, and Bellingham dropped out of sight down as far as the knees, his body being in full view, and the clergyman was left standing on the outer frame of the scaffold. The body was afterwards carried in a cart, followed by a crowd of the lower class, to St Bartholomew's Hospital, and privately dissected.

BENJAMIN RENSHAW

*Executed, after an Abortive Attempt, at Nottingham, 29th
of August, 1812, for setting fire to a Haystack*

THIS man was convicted on the clearest evidence of the wicked, wasteful crime of burning the hay of Mr Charles Stanton; and, in aggravation of such business, soon after-

DANIEL DAWSON

wards, of wantonly slaughtering a ram, the property of Mr Isaac Dodsley, both of the town of Mansfield, in the county of Nottinghamshire. He was sentenced to death, and left by the judge for execution.

About eleven o'clock he was taken from the prison and placed in a cart, accompanied by the executioner and a respectable gentleman who had daily visited him during his condemnation. The concourse of spectators was unusually great, to witness the awful catastrophe. When arrived at the fatal tree, and some time had been spent in singing and prayer, Renshaw himself prayed with an audible voice, and afterwards addressed the multitude for the space of fifteen or twenty minutes, exhorting them, and especially youth, to avoid evil company; and this he did in a manner which excited the astonishment of every beholder. Such fortitude, unshaken confidence and composure were scarcely ever before witnessed, expressing at the same time, as he had done before, his assurance of the mercy of God. After he was turned off, the noose of the rope moved under his chin, and it was deemed proper to put him into the cart, that the rope might be adjusted afresh, after which he was turned off again. This circumstance occasioned a considerable sensation among the spectators, who generally expressed their abhorrence of the executioner, to whose carelessness they attributed the accident. After hanging the usual time, his body was given to his friends for interment at Mansfield.

DANIEL DAWSON

*Convicted at Cambridge Summer Assizes, 1812, and executed
for Poisoning Racehorses at Newmarket*

THIS trial excited much interest in the sporting world. The prisoner was arraigned on four indictments, with numerous counts—viz. for poisoning a horse belonging to Mr Adams, of Royston, Herts, and a blood mare belonging to Mr Northey, at Newmarket, in 1809; and also for poisoning a horse belonging to Sir F. Standish, and another

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belonging to Lord Foley, in 1811, at the same place. He was tried and convicted on the first case only.

Serjeant Sellon opened the case, and detailed the nature of the evidence.

The principal witness, as on the former trial, was Cecil Bishop, an accomplice with the prisoner.¹ He proved having been for some time acquainted with Dawson; and that, on application to him, he had furnished him with corrosive sublimate to sicken horses, as a friend of his had been tricked by physicking his horse, which was about to run a match. He went on to prove that Dawson and himself had become progressively acquainted; and that, on the prisoner complaining the stuff was not strong enough, he prepared him a solution of arsenic. Witness described this as not offensive in smell, the prisoner having informed him that the horses had thrown up their heads, and refused to partake of the water into which the corrosive sublimate had been infused. The prisoner again complained the stuff was not made strong enough; and on being informed if it was made stronger it would kill the horses he replied he did not mind that: the Newmarket frequenters were rogues, and if he (meaning witness) had a fortune to lose they would plunder him of it. The prisoner afterwards informed witness he used the stuff, which was then strong enough, as it had killed a hackney and two brood mares. The other part of Bishop's testimony went to prove the case against the prisoner.

Mrs Tillbrook, a respectable housekeeper at Newmarket, where the prisoner lodged, proved having found a bottle of liquid concealed under Dawson's bed, previous to the horses having been poisoned, and that Dawson was out late on the Saturday and Sunday evenings previous to that event, which took place on the Monday. After Dawson had left the house she found the bottle, which she identified as having contained the said liquid, and which a chemist proved

¹ Dawson had been tried for a similar crime at the preceding Lent Assizes, and was acquitted on the grounds that he had been indicted as a principal, instead of an accessory, which in point of law could not be maintained.

JOHN DAVIES

to have contained poison. Witness also proved that Dawson had cautioned her that he had poison in the house for some dogs, lest anyone should have the curiosity to taste it. Other witnesses proved a chain of circumstances which left no doubt of the prisoner's guilt.

The judge pronounced sentence of death on the prisoner, and informed him, in strong language, he could not expect mercy to be extended to him. The unfortunate man suffered the awful sentence of the law, at the top of Cambridge Castle, amidst a surrounding assemblage of at least twelve thousand spectators, it being market-day.

JOHN DAVIES

*Sentenced to Six Months' Imprisonment for buying Guineas
at a Higher Price than their Nominal Value,
September, 1812*

AT the Middlesex Sessions, September, 1812, John Davies and S. Levy, two old-clothes men, were indicted for buying guineas contrary to Lord Stanhope's Act. The defendants had been suspected of the practice of buying up gold, and a man named Hatfield, with the approbation of the Solicitor of the Mint, and in conjunction with Humphries, a police officer, was employed to endeavour to detect them.

On the day mentioned in the indictment Hatfield met the defendant Levy in St James's Street, and was accosted by him, and asked whether he had any clothes to sell. Hatfield said he had not; and, after some conversation, asked the defendant if he would buy some guineas; the defendant replied in the affirmative, and it was agreed that they should meet at the Goat and Lion public-house, St James's, in the course of half-an-hour. Hatfield then informed Humphries, the officer, of the appointment, and three guineas were marked by him and delivered to Hatfield.

At the time appointed they went to the Goat and Lion. Humphries remained in the background, and Hatfield

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went into the house, where he found Levy already there, and with him the other defendant, Davies. After some conversation had passed between them, Davies purchased the three guineas at twenty-five shillings each, and they were delivered to him. As soon as the transaction was complete, on a signal being given, Humphries came over, and Davies was immediately secured. On the officers attempting to search him he called out "Thieves!" and resisted. He was, however, overpowered; and on searching him the marked guineas were found in his pocket. The jury found Davies guilty, but acquitted Levy.

The chairman, after animadverting on the mischievous tendency of the offence of which the defendant had been convicted, sentenced him to imprisonment for six months in the house of correction, and to find security at the expiration of that period for twelve months longer.

CHARLES FOX

"The Flying Dustman," convicted at the Middlesex Sessions, September, 1812, for an Assault, and sentenced to Three Months' Imprisonment

THIS prosecution commenced at the instance of Mr Lacock, whom the defendant injured in his contract with the parish of St Mary, Islington. Mr Lacock was a cow-keeper to a large extent, generally milking several hundred. He was also scavenger to the said parish, paying for the liberty of taking away the dust (coal ashes) from the houses of the inhabitants the enormous sum of seven hundred and fifty pounds a year!

The parish obtained an Act of Parliament for the regulation, among other things, of the duties of scavengers, which provided that any person offending therein might be taken into custody to answer charges made against them.

On the 24th of June, the day laid in the indictment, the prosecutor, who was a carter in the employ of Mr Lacock,

CHARLES FOX

saw the defendant come out of a house in King Street, Islington, with a basket of ashes on his head, which he emptied into a cart that was standing at the door, and was proceeding to drive away when the prosecutor went up and stopped him. He swore, however, that all the men in Islington should not stop him; and, on the prosecutor attempting to detain him till a constable could be sent for, he struck him several times, and at length broke from him. He was afterwards taken by a constable.

The defendant was what was termed a "Flying Dustman," who had no contract; and, paying nothing to anyone, went round the parish collecting all the ashes he could, to the great injury of the contractor.

It further appeared that this was the fifth time of his thus offending. The jury found him guilty of the assault, and the Court immediately sentenced him to three months' imprisonment in the house of correction.

Country readers could hardly suppose that a man gave seven hundred and fifty pounds a year, and employed several carts and a number of men, to empty his neighbours' dust-tubs, wherein all manner of filth was thrown. Yet this was the case in every parish in and about London, the officers giving the contract to the best bidder, and to obtain which there was sometimes as great a struggle as to get elected churchwarden. Lacock cleared a few hundreds a year by his contract. In a part of his extensive premises he employed several score of poor women and children to sift the ashes. First they produced cinders, which sold for about half the price of coal, to forges, kilns, etc. The next siftings, becoming each finer than the last, were used as manure, and in the making of lime, brick, etc. Thus the collecting of house ashes, which formerly the inhabitants were obliged to pay people to take away, produced a clear income, sufficient of itself for the decent maintenance of a family.

The regular dusty squad, fired with indignation at this usurpation of their rights and privileges, and fearing a forestalling of their Christmas presents, issued the following cautionary handbill to their employers:—

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TO THE WORTHY INHABITANTS OF ST MARY, ISLINGTON

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—We, the regular Dustmen of this parish, humbly present our respects to you, and beg that you will not give your Christmas Box but to such men as deliver one of these bills, and show a medal with the following inscription :—

WILLIAM DUKE OF CUMBERLAND, BATTLE OF CULLODEN

—with a Badge—"R. Lacock, No. 1 and 2, Islington." Men having been found going about dressed like dustmen, under false pretences—to defraud the regular men of what little you may please to bestow.

Please not to deliver this bill to anyone.

JOHN SMITH AND JOHN WALING.

LIEUTENANT GAMAGE

*Late of the Griffon Sloop-of-War, hanged at the Yardarm
of that Ship, in November, 1812, for the Murder
of a Sergeant of Marines*

THIS unfortunate young officer fell a victim to ungovernable passion. He had ordered a sergeant of marines upon some duty which the sergeant, conceiving it incompatible with his rank, refused performing. He was, withal, insolent in his replies. The Lieutenant burst into a violent passion, ran to his cabin, seized his dirk, returned and stabbed the sergeant to the heart. For this crime he was tried by a court martial, and sentenced to death.

The execution took place on board the *Griffon*. He bore his fate with manly fortitude. About eight o'clock he was attended by the clergyman, who remained with him till about half-past nine, when the procession began from his cabin to the platform from whence he was to be launched into eternity. The clergyman walked first; then Lieutenant Gamage, attended on each side by two friends, officers;

LIEUTENANT GAMAGE

several officers followed afterwards; everyone present was deeply affected at the unfortunate fate of this young gentleman, the ship's company particularly. Boats from the different ships attended, as usual, round the execution, and the same sympathy and pity was observable in each. "God receive his soul!" frequently burst forth from different seamen. He bowed and thanked them three times, and seemed deeply affected with the sympathy he excited. He spoke shortly to his own crew, warning them to beware of giving way to sudden passion. As soon as he reached the platform he prayed again with the clergyman, and precisely at ten o'clock, the signal gun being fired, he was run up to the yardarm, amidst the repeated exclamations from the seamen of "God bless and receive him!" He appeared to suffer but little.

Previous to the execution the following circular address was sent by Admiral Foley to every ship in his fleet:—

"THE Commander-in-Chief most earnestly desires to direct the particular attention of the fleet to the melancholy scene they are now called to attend—a scene which offers a strong, and much he hopes an impressive, lesson to every person in it—a lesson to all who are to command, to all who are to obey. Lieutenant Gamage is represented by every person who knew him, and by the unanimous voice of the *Griffon's* ship's company, as a humane, compassionate man, a kind, indulgent officer; yet for want of that guard which every man should keep over his passions this kind, humane, compassionate man commits the dreadful crime of murder!

"Let his example strike deep into the minds of all who witness his unhappy end; and, whatever their general disposition may be, let them learn from him that, if they are not always watchful to restrain their passions within their proper bounds, one moment of intemperate anger may destroy the hopes of a well-spent honourable life, and bring them to an untimely and disgraceful death. And let those who are to obey learn from the conduct of the sergeant the fatal effects which may result from contempt and insolent

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conduct towards their superiors. By repeated insolence the sergeant overcame the kind and gentle disposition of Lieutenant Gamage; and, by irritating and inflaming his passion, occasioned his own death.

"The Commander-in-Chief hopes that this afflicting lesson may not be offered in vain; but, seriously contemplating the awful example before them, every officer and every man will learn from it, never to suffer himself to be driven by ill-governed passion to treat with cruelty or violence those over whom he is to command, nor by disobedience or disrespect to rouse the passions of those whom it is his duty to obey and respect.

(Signed) "THOMAS FOLEY."

"To the respective Captains and Commanders of his
Majesty's ships and vessels in the Downs."

The body was brought on shore for interment at two o'clock, and was received at landing by Perrer Dower, Esq., Governor of the Naval Hospital, who, with a number of naval and military officers, attended this unfortunate young gentleman's remains to the burial-ground at the Naval Hospital, where they were deposited. General Trollope, and the officers of the *Griffon*, with several of the crew, were present, and bore ample testimony, by their appearance, to the regret they felt at his untimely fate.

JOHN WALKER

Another Tyrannical Guardian of the Peace of the Night, whose Case offers another Peep into a London Watch-House, imprisoned for assaulting a Woman, November, 1812

AT the London Sessions held at the Guildhall on the 30th of November, 1812, this man was indicted for a gross assault on Elizabeth Ann Hammond. This lady was the wife of Mr Hammond, a respectable insurance-broker in the City, and deposed that as she was returning from Covent Garden Theatre, on the 24th of October, in company

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with her husband, she was treated with the most brutal violence by a coal-heaver, named Eagle, whom Mr Hammond, with the assistance of the patrol, secured and took to a watch-house, in Broadway, Blackfriars, where the defendant presided as constable of the night. The defendant, however, wishing to turn the affair to his own advantage, refused to receive any charge against Eagle unless money was deposited with him by Mr Hammond, who, to avoid Eagle's escaping, consented to such deposit; but protested against the defendant's conduct in demanding it, and threatened to punish him for so doing. At this the defendant declined to take the money, and expressed his determination to commit Mrs Hammond, if the charge against Eagle was persisted in; and this not being withdrawn, the defendant proceeded to take Mrs Hammond to the compter, but before he left the watch-house—in order to shelter his own misconduct—he advised Eagle to make a counter-charge against Mrs Hammond; and on this being made the defendant, notwithstanding the threats of Mr Hammond, proceeded to force Mrs Hammond from the watch-house towards the compter, in company with Eagle, until they arrived at the house of a gentleman who was known to Mr Hammond, who undertook for her and Mr Hammond's appearance, if necessary, the next morning. These facts being clearly proved in evidence, the defendant's counsel, after a strict cross-examination of the witnesses, admitted that, while he saw no pretence for the defendant acting as he had done, he saw many reasons why he ought to have acted otherwise; and the jury, without a moment's hesitation, pronounced the defendant guilty.

The learned recorder, after pointing out to the defendant the necessity there was for investing a certain degree of power in the hands of constables, and remarking in terms of severity on the unwarrantable manner in which the defendant had abused the authority with which he was entrusted, sentenced him to be imprisoned for six calendar months in the Giltspur Street Compter.

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THE MARQUIS OF SLIGO

Convicted of enticing British Seamen to desert, fined Five Thousand Pounds, and imprisoned Four Months in Newgate, 16th of December, 1812

AT nine o'clock Sir William Scott attended, and charged the grand jury. The Court then adjourned till ten o'clock, at which hour Sir William Scott returned, accompanied by Lord Ellenborough, Mr Baron Thompson and several Doctors of Law. The Duke of Clarence was on the bench. The jury were then sworn to try the Marquis of Sligo, who appeared in court, and sat by his counsel, Messrs Dauncey, Dampier and Scarlett.

Before the trial began, Mr Dauncey stated that his lordship wished to plead guilty as to part, and not guilty as to the rest; and wished, therefore, only one part now to be entered into.

Dr Robinson, on the other side, was not unwilling to accede to this arrangement; but Lord Ellenborough said that the indictment must not be garbled. He must plead guilty to the whole, or not guilty to the whole.

After some conversation between the counsel the trial proceeded; the indictment was read, charging the Marquis with unlawfully receiving on board his ship William Elden, a seaman in the King's service, and detaining, concealing and secreting him. The second count charged him with enticing and persuading the said seaman to desert; the third count, with receiving the said Elden, knowing him to have deserted.

There were other counts with respect to other seamen, and a count for an assault and false imprisonment.

Dr Robinson (the Advocate-General) stated the case.

Captain Sprainger (examined by the Attorney-General) stated that in April, 1810, the Marquis was introduced to him by letter from Admiral Martin; his lordship appeared desirous of making a tour, and for that purpose hired a vessel called the *Pylades*. The witness gave him all the

THE MARQUIS OF SLIGO

assistance in his power, by sending to him riggers and carpenters and gunners, who were lent to him for the purpose of outfitting his vessel, but still remained part of his (Captain Sprainger's) crew. In the course of these transactions his lordship passed and repassed in a boat called the gig, which was rowed by four men : Charles Lee, Robert Lloyd, James Foljambe and John Walker ; they had belonged to the boat for three years, and were constantly in it. The defendant observed that they were fine clever-looking men. Afterwards, about a week before he sailed, he missed two of these men, which the more surprised him as they were very trusty seamen, had never been absent or irregular, and, though frequently suffered to go on shore without a midshipman, had never in any instance abused this confidence. They had, besides, the wages of three years due to them. On the 13th, before he sailed, he went on board the *Pylades*, to see Lord Sligo, and told him of the extraordinary circumstance of his missing these two men, whom his lordship probably recollects. He was then going to communicate to his lordship some suspicions which his officers had suggested to him, when Lord Sligo interrupted him, saying surely he (Captain Sprainger) could not think him so base as to take away these men, after the civilities by him shown to his lordship. He further said that some of the men whom he had lent to him had offered to desert, but that he refused to accept them. Witness then replied to Lord Sligo that he trusted he had not his men, and that he would not take them or any others from his Majesty's service ; but, lest they should come to him, he (Captain S.) would leave a description of their persons, and take his lordship's word of honour that he would not receive them, but give them up to the commanding officer at Malta, who had orders to keep them till his return. He then left his lordship, having received his promise and word of honour, and having remarked to his lordship how serious a thing it was to entice his Majesty's seamen. The fleet was at that time nearly two thousand below its complement, and it was very difficult to procure British seamen. He did not muster

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his lordship's crew; they seemed to be foreigners, in number about twenty or thirty. His lordship had proposed to take fifty men, as his vessel was to be a letter of marque. A few would have been sufficient for the purposes of navigation. As soon as he reached the ship he ordered a description of the two men to be made out, and it was sent to Lord Sligo; he received no answer then, though he afterwards had a letter from his lordship. He had never seen Lee or Lloyd since. (The letter was here read, in which Lord Sligo stated that in the course of his voyage he found that he had on board some men-of-war's men, and that he was determined to send them on shore the first opportunity. Whatever expenses he might incur on their account he should put down to the score of humanity, and glory in it. He thought this explanation necessary to Captain Sprainger, who had treated him like a gentleman; but the other captain who complained he should not notice. If the business was brought into court he should do his best to defend himself; and if he did not succeed he had an ample fortune, and could pay the fines.) This letter was dated Constantinople.

William Elden, a seaman—who was in the navy nearly thirteen years, and at the time mentioned was on board the *Montague*, off Malta, and had a ticket-of-leave to go ashore there on the 13th of that month, in the morning—said he and other seamen, belonging to the *Montague*, four of them in all, were going back to their ships when they were accosted by two men in livery, and another, who was dressed in a white jacket. The men in livery were servants of the Marquis of Sligo, and the other was the second mate of his lordship's vessel. They gave him drink, and so intoxicated him that he knew not how he got on board the *Pylades*, where he found himself placed in the pump well, abaft the mainmast, when he recovered his senses; and there he also saw two more of his shipmates, and a stranger, who was in a sailor's dress. Witness then came on deck, where he saw Macdermot, Thompson, Cook, Fisher and Brown on the deck. He also saw Lord Sligo on board, that

THE MARQUIS OF SLIGO

evening on deck, who asked him his name, when witness told his name, and that he belonged to the *Montague*. They were then two miles from shore. Next morning he again saw Lord Sligo, being then perfectly sober, when he was walking the deck with a shipmate of the *Montague*, of which they were talking. Lord Sligo again asked their names, and they answered that they were Elden and Story, and that those were the names by which they went on board that ship ; but Story told his lordship that being men-of-war's men it would not do to go by their own names, and Lord Sligo immediately said : " Come to me, and I will alter them." They went on the quarterdeck, and defendant gave the name of William Smith to the witness. A few days afterwards his lordship told him that he would be useful in exercising the guns, to which he replied that he saw none there who did not know the use of the guns as well as himself. He then saw nine men of the *Montague* there : Cook, Fisher, Brown, Story, Sullivan, Thompson, Macdermot and Travers. Lord Sligo took an active part in the management of the vessel, and assigned to them all their duties. At Palermo he asked Lord Sligo for leave to go on shore to get clothes ; his lordship gave him five four-dollar pieces for wages. He went on shore and returned, not surrendering himself to any King's ship. At Messina he begged leave to quit the *Pylades*, and offered to return all the money and clothes he had received ; his lordship would not suffer him, and foreign sentinels were placed in arms over the crew to prevent any from escaping. Lord Sligo at Palermo told the crew that he had procured a protection from Admiral Martin, having pledged his honour that he had no men-of-war's men on board. They were afterwards chased by the *Active* frigate and a brig, and were brought to, and a King's boat came alongside. Lord Sligo then desired witness to go below, who said he would rather stay where he was. The rest were then below. Lord Sligo left him for a few minutes ; but returned, and told him he must go down. He then went down into the after-hold underneath the cabin, where were the rest of the seamen of the *Warrior* and the

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Montague; the hatch was closed over them, and a ladder placed at top. In about half-an-hour they were called up. They then proceeded to Patmos, where he and some more had leave of absence for a few days. The next day Lord Sligo sailed without giving them any notice, and left him and six more in great distress. They were forced to sell their clothing; they had nothing but what they stood upright in. They got a boat, but could not overtake the *Pylades*; they then went to Scio, and went with a British consul to the *Pylades*; but Lord Sligo refused to take them in, and threatened to fire at them; he knew them very well, as they were all upon deck; he took four of them on board—the carpenter, the surgeon, the man of the *Warrior* (Lee), and the sailmaker. The witness had been since tried, and sentenced to receive two hundred lashes; but his punishment had been remitted.

Fisher, Sullivan and Brown, all belonging to the *Montague*, corroborated Elden's statement. Captain Hayes deposed to his having searched the *Pylades*, when the Marquis declared, upon his word, no men were concealed on board.

After a short consultation in the box the jury found his lordship guilty of all the counts in the indictment, except one for false imprisonment.

The judge (Sir William Scott) then ordered that his lordship, who was in court, should enter into recognisance to appear the next day to receive judgment.

The trial lasted till nearly two o'clock in the morning.

The Marquis of Sligo on Thursday appeared in court to receive sentence; an affidavit was put in, which purported that he knew nothing of the circumstance of his having men-of-war's men on board till the time of the search.

Lord Ellenborough interrupted it by observing that the affidavit must not impeach the evidence.

Mr Scarlett said that was not its object.

The affidavit was then continued, stating that as soon as he found he had two of the *Warrior*'s men he was anxious to dismiss them; it then expressed contrition for his folly and rashness, and a hope that the letter which was written

WILLIAM CORNWELL

to Captain Sprainger (which was never intended for the public) would not be thought to convey any disrespect for the laws of his country, which he was ready and anxious to uphold.

Sir William Scott then, after an impressive speech, passed the sentence of the Court upon his lordship, which was, that his lordship should pay to the King a fine of five thousand pounds, and be imprisoned four months in Newgate.

His lordship bowed, and was conducted by the keepers through the private door to the jail.

WILLIAM CORNWELL

*A Murderer, who was traced by a Watch he had sold, and
was executed in 1813*

MRS STEPHENS was seen in her shop at Woodford, on Saturday night about ten o'clock, sitting behind her counter; and about eleven o'clock a female who occupied the adjoining house heard Mrs Stephens's door bang to with great violence, and then immediately heard someone run away.

When discovered, Mrs Stephens was lying upon her face on the floor behind the counter, and a blood-stained knife upon a wooden bench within a yard of the place. The murder was not discovered till Monday morning, when suspicion arose from the windows remaining closed. It was supposed she was in the act of settling her week's account when the villain entered, as her slate was by her. The halfpence were counted up, and left, but the silver and notes had been taken away.

It having been ascertained that she had been robbed of a new silver watch, No. 1544, it was described in several newspapers, after the murder, and it led to the discovery. One William Cornwell had worked as ostler at the Red Lion Inn Yard, in Holborn, but left in consequence of being in debt. He afterwards called in at a public-house near Lincoln's Inn Fields, when, on the landlady upbraiding him

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for leaving the neighbourhood without paying his score, he proposed to give the landlord his watch for a one-pound bank-note, and to clear off his score of fourteen shillings. He afterwards proposed to give the watch and take Mr Davis's old metal watch, and clear his score, provided he would give him half-a-crown, which was agreed to. On Monday morning the advertisement describing the watch appeared, and the landlord gave information at Bow Street of the discovery. Cornwell was in consequence taken at Woodford, and the way in which he accounted for having possession of Mrs Stephens's watch was that he found it on Sunday morning after the murder, at four o'clock, close to the pond near the Castle Inn, when he went to get water for his horses. On the Monday, he said, he ascertained that it was Mrs Stephens's watch, but did not inform any person, not conceiving that he had any occasion to do so, and that he had as much right to it as any other person; but he went to London on Wednesday, with an intent to dispose of the watch, and get some clothes. He also confessed that he had been at Mrs Stephens's shop on the Saturday evening of the murder, and had seen her in the shop about nine o'clock, previous to her shutters being put up.

The officer then proceeded to the stables of which Cornwell had the care. On a corn-bin he found a pair of corded breeches, which had evidently been stained with a considerable quantity of blood, and had since been washed. In another part of the stable he found a jacket, which had been washed in a similar manner. He took the articles to Cornwell, at the Castle Inn, who owned them all except the jacket, which he said was his master's, but that he occasionally wore it; the stains on it were from a liquid with which he washed his horses' mouths; and the blood on the breeches was, he said, occasioned by bleeding a horse. When taken before the magistrate, every person's countenance except his own was serious and fixed; but he appeared smiling during the whole time; and he did not change countenance when the strongest circumstances were stated against him.

ELIZA FENNING

He was tried at Chelmsford, 6th of August, 1813, and after a very laborious and patient investigation, which occupied the Court nearly six hours, he was found guilty. The evidence, although merely circumstantial, was nevertheless so conclusive—being supported by various corroborative circumstances, as detailed at length by eighteen witnesses for the prosecution—that the jury returned their verdict without a moment's hesitation. He exhibited the same levity and hardihood during his trial which he had shown during the examinations, always persisting in his innocence; and upon the judge pronouncing the awful sentence of the law, Cornwell said with a convulsive grin : “ Thank you, my Lord, and gentlemen.”

The judge complied with a request of the magistrates that he might be executed at Woodford, and upon his arrival there he was placed in a private room with the Rev. Mr Kebbel. But, notwithstanding the zealous endeavours of that gentleman, he not only declined making any confession, but also steadfastly refused to join in prayer, confining himself to the same expression he had constantly used prior to his conviction—that he had nothing to say, but was innocent of the crime for which he was going to suffer. And these were also the last words he uttered under the gallows.

ELIZA FENNING

A Cook, who was convicted of placing Arsenic in Dumplings, and executed, 26th of June, 1815, after Solemn Protestations of Innocence

ELIZA FENNING was indicted at the Old Bailey for that she, on the 21st day of March, 1815, feloniously and unlawfully did administer to, and cause to be administered to, Orlibar Turner, Robert Gregson Turner and Charlotte Turner, his wife, certain deadly poison—to wit, arsenic—with intent to kill and murder the said persons.

From the age of about fourteen Elizabeth Fanning had been out in servitude; and at twenty-two, in the latter end

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of January, 1815, was hired as cook into the family of Mr Orlibar Turner, at No. 68 Chancery Lane. About seven weeks from that time the circumstances unhappily arose which led to the unfortunate creature being charged with an attempt to murder Mr Turner's family.

It was stated in evidence that Fenning cooked some yeast dumplings, which with beef-steak were served to Mrs Turner, her husband and his father, all of whom were afterwards seized with illness and excruciating pain. The prisoner herself, said Mrs Turner, was also taken ill. The prisoner had cooked the dumplings, and the allegation was that she had put arsenic in the dough with which she made them. Arsenic was kept in a drawer in two wrappers, with the words "Arsenic, deadly poison," written upon them. Any person might have access to the drawer.

Margaret Turner said when she arrived at the house she found her husband, son and daughter extremely ill. The prisoner was also ill and vomiting.

Q. Did you say anything to her while you were there that day respecting the dumplings? A. I exclaimed to her: "Oh, these devilish dumplings!"—supposing they had done the mischief. She said: "Not the dumplings, but the milk, madam." I asked her: "What milk?" She said: "The halfpennyworth of milk that Sally fetched to make the sauce." Q. Did she say who had made the sauce? A. My daughter. I said: "That cannot be, it could not be the sauce." She said: "Yes, Gadsden ate a very little bit of dumpling, not bigger than a nut, but licked up three parts of a boat of sauce with a bit of bread." Q. (*To Mrs Turner, jun.*): Was any sauce made with the milk that Sarah Peer fetched? A. It was. I mixed it, and left it for her to make.

Robert Gregson Turner was here sworn. Q. Did you partake of the dumplings at dinner? A. Yes, I did. Q. Did you eat any of the sauce? A. Not any portion of that whatever. Q. Were you taken ill, sir? A. Soon after dinner I was, sir. I first felt an inclination to be sick: I then felt a strong heat across my chest. I was extremely sick. Q. Did it produce any swelling in you? A. I was exactly as my father and wife

ELIZA FENNING

were, except stronger symptoms. I had eaten a dumpling and a half. I suffered more than any person. *Q.* Were your symptoms, and those of the others, such as could be produced by poison? *A.* I should presume so: all taken in the same way, and pretty near the same time.

Mr John Marshall, sworn, said: "I am a surgeon. On the evening of Tuesday, the 21st of March, I was sent for to Mr Turner's family. I got there about a quarter before nine o'clock. All the afflictions of the family were produced by arsenic. I have no doubt of it, by the symptoms. The prisoner was also ill, by the same I have no doubt." *Q.* Did Mr Orlibar Turner show you a dish the next morning? *A.* He did. I examined it. I washed it with a tea-kettle of warm water. I first stirred it and let it subside. I decanted it off. I found half-a-teaspoonful of white powder. I washed it a second time. I found it to be decidedly arsenic. *Q.* Will arsenic, cut with a knife, produce the appearance of blackness upon the knife? *A.* I have no doubt of it. *Q.* Did you examine the remains of the yeast? *A.* Yes: there was not a grain of arsenic there; and I examined the flour-tub: there was no arsenic there.

The prisoner said she was truly innocent of the whole charge, and the recorder, in addressing the jury, said:

"Gentlemen, you have now heard the evidence given on this trial, and the case lies in a very narrow compass. There are but two questions for your consideration, and these are, whether poison was administered, in all, to four persons, and by what hand such poison was given. That these persons were poisoned appears certain from the evidence of Mrs Charlotte Turner, Orlibar Turner, Roger Gadsden, the apprentice, and Robert Turner; for each of these persons ate of the dumplings, and were all more or less affected—that is, they were every one poisoned. That the poison was in the dough of which these dumplings were composed has been fully proved, I think, by the testimony of the surgeon who examined the remains of the dough left in the dish in which the dumplings had been mixed and divided; and he deposes that the powder which had subsided

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at the bottom of the dish was arsenic. That the arsenic was not in the flour I think appears plain, from the circumstance that the crust of a pie had been made that very morning with some of the same flour of which the dumplings were made and the persons who dined off the pie felt no inconvenience whatever; that it was not in the yeast nor in the milk has been also proved; neither could it be in the sauce, for two of the persons who were ill never touched a particle of the sauce, and yet were violently affected with retching and sickness. From all these circumstances it must follow that the poisonous ingredient was in the dough alone; for, besides that the persons who partook of the dumplings at dinner were all more or less affected by what they had eaten, it was observed by one of the witnesses that the dough retained the same shape it had when first put into the dish to rise, and that it appeared dark, and was heavy, and in fact never did rise. The other question for your consideration is, by what hand the poison was administered; and although we have nothing before us but circumstantial evidence, yet it often happens that circumstances are more conclusive than the most positive testimony. The prisoner, when taxed with poisoning the dumplings, threw the blame first on the milk, next on the yeast, and then on the sauce; but it has been proved, most satisfactorily, that none of these contained it, and that it was in the dumplings alone, which no person but the prisoner had made. Gentlemen, if poison had been given even to a dog, one would suppose that common humanity would have prompted us to assist it in its agonies: here is the case of a master and a mistress being both poisoned, and no assistance was offered. Gentlemen, I have now stated all the facts as they have arisen, and I leave the case in your hands, being fully persuaded that, whatever your verdict may be, you will conscientiously discharge your duty both to your God and to your country."

After the charge, the jury in a few minutes brought in a verdict of guilty, and the recorder passed sentence of death upon the prisoner. The miserable girl was carried from the bar convulsed with agony, and uttering frightful screams.

ELIZA FENNING

On the 26th of June (says *The Annual Register*), the day appointed for the execution of Elizabeth Fenning, William Oldfield and Abraham Adams, the public curiosity was strongly excited, perhaps to a greater degree than on any similar event since the memorable execution of Haggerty, Holloway, etc. In the case of Fenning many had taken up an opinion that her guilt was not clearly established, for she had uniformly protested her innocence. The last interview between her and her parents took place about half-past one o'clock on Tuesday. To them, and to the last moment, she persisted in her innocence. About eight o'clock the sheriff's proceeded from Justice Hall along the subterraneous passage to the press-yard.

Fenning was dressed in white, with laced boots, and a cap. Oldfield went up to her in the press-yard and enjoined her to prayer, and assured her that they should all be happy.

The sheriff's preceded the cavalcade to the steps of the scaffold, to which the unfortunate girl was first introduced. Just as the door was opened the Reverend Mr Cotton stopped her for a moment, to ask her if, in her last moments, she had anything to communicate. She paused a moment, and said : "Before the just and Almighty God, and by the faith of the Holy Sacrament I have taken, I am innocent of the offence with which I am charged." This she spoke with much firmness of emphasis, and followed it by saying what all around her understood to be : "My innocence will be manifested in the course of the day." The last part of this sentence was spoken, however, so inaudibly that it was not rightly understood, and the Reverend Mr Cotton, being anxious to hear it again, put a question to get from her positive words : to which she answered : "I hope God will forgive me, and make manifest the transaction in the course of the day." She then mounted the platform with the same uniform firmness she had maintained throughout. A hand-kerchief was tied over her face, and she prayed fervently, but, to the last moment, declared her innocence. Oldfield came up next, with a firm step, and addressed a few words in prayer to the unhappy girl. About half-past eight o'clock the

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fatal signal was given. One movement only was perceptible in Fenning. After hanging the usual hour, the bodies were cut down, and given over to their friends for interment.

The following paragraph relative to Elizabeth Fenning appeared in an evening paper :—

“ We should deem ourselves wanting in justice, and a due respect for government, if we did not state that, in consequence of the many applications from the friends of this unhappy young woman who this day suffered the sentence of the law, a meeting took place yesterday at Lord Sidmouth’s office (his lordship is out of town), at which the Lord Chancellor, the recorder, and Mr Beckett were present. A full and minute investigation of the case, we understand, took place, and of all that had been urged in her favour by private individuals; but the result was a decided conviction that nothing had occurred which could justify an interruption of the due course of justice. So anxious was the Lord Chancellor in particular to satisfy his own mind, and put a stop to all doubts on the part of the people at large, that another meeting was held by the same parties last night, when they came to the same determination, and in consequence the unfortunate culprit suffered the penalty of the law.”

Her funeral took place on the 31st. It began to move from the house of her father, in Eagle Street, Red Lion Square, about half-past three o’clock; preceded by about a dozen peace officers, and these were followed by nearly thirty more; next came the undertaker, immediately followed by the body of the deceased. The pall was supported by six young females, attired in white; then followed eight persons, male and female, as chief mourners, led by the parents. These were succeeded by several hundreds of persons, two and two, and the whole was closed by a posse of peace officers. Many thousands accompanied the procession, and the windows, and even the tops of the houses, as it passed were thronged with spectators. The whole proceeded in a regular manner until it reached the burying-ground of St George the Martyr. The number of persons assembled in and about the churchyard was estimated at ten thousand.

GEORGE BARNETT

*Charged with shooting at Miss Frances Maria Kelly, Actress,
in Drury Lane Theatre, 17th of February, 1816*

THIE prisoner was indicted for shooting a pistol loaded with powder and shot at Miss F. M. Kelly, during her performance on the stage of Drury Lane Theatre.

Mr Nathan Harris, on the evening of the 17th of February, was in the pit of Drury Lane Theatre, about the eighth row. He saw the prisoner about two rows before him, who stood up during the performance of the farce. Miss Kelly and Mr Knight were on the stage at the moment, embracing each other, in the characters of Nan and Joey, in the farce of *The Merry Mourners*. After they had parted, Miss Kelly was retreating backwards towards the stage door, when witness observed the prisoner, elevated above all the people around him, with his right hand pointing slanting towards the spot where Miss Kelly was standing. Witness saw a flash come from his hand, and heard the report of a pistol, and reached across to him instantly and seized him. He said : "I am not the man who fired it ; don't take me." Witness said he was sure he was the man. At this time the prisoner had dropped the pistol. Witness had seen the wadding drop at the moment of the flash. The prisoner was then secured, taken out of the theatre, and searched. In his pocket was found a small block-tin case full of gunpowder.

Mr Birnie asked him how he came to fire a pistol in a public theatre. He said it was to make an alarm. Witness then asked him how he came to point it so. His answer was : "She can explain."

Mr Rorer went to the theatre to ascertain the direction of the shot, and found marks of shot (very small) on the lamps on the stage door, near which Miss Kelly had been standing. He found some shot in the orchestra, as if they had struck against the boards and fallen down. Those which struck the door had left a mark two feet, nine inches from the floor.

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Miss Kelly was now sworn, evidently under great embarrassment, and much affected. On the night in question she was performing at Drury Lane Theatre, saw a light, and at the same moment heard what she supposed to be a detonating ball. She had not the least acquaintance with the prisoner to her knowledge; had never seen him before that period, nor till this day. She had received two letters signed with the prisoner's name. She never answered them, or took the slightest notice of them, except to a friend.

John Baker was in attendance at Drury Lane Theatre on the 17th of February and saw Mr Taylor produce the pistol now put in; it appeared to have been recently discharged. (The pistol was of the same size as the one used by Bellingham, about six inches long.) While conveying the prisoner to Tothill Fields he asked him how he could think of doing so rash an act—was it his intention to shoot Miss Kelly? The prisoner answered: "I tell you the pistol was not loaded with either ball or slugs." He admitted his intention was to shoot at Miss Kelly.

Samuel Dickons accompanied the last witness in taking the prisoner to Tothill Fields. The prisoner said he intended to kill Miss Kelly, in answer to a question from Baker. Baker then asked why he intended this. The prisoner answered: "She knows very well what it's for."

Mr Dowling now announced his intention to call evidence to prove the insanity of the prisoner.

John Crokets said he married the prisoner's mother. The prisoner when a boy was always reserved and gloomy; he would not play with other boys. At times he was very queer, and at his meals would burst out laughing without reason. He went to several places, but was always low and melancholy. Three or four days before this transaction he was particularly low.

Mrs Crokets, mother of the prisoner, said he was the son of Mr Barnett, who was a waiter at the Piazza Coffee-House. She remembered his return from Sevenoaks. He seemed very ill, melancholy and low-spirited. The last week before this affair he appeared very uneasy and uncomfortable.

ABRAHAM THORNTON

Mr Norcroft, a law stationer, with whom the prisoner had worked for a year, deposed that in his opinion his close application to business had injured his health. He was correct in business till a day or two before the offence with which he was charged. He then appeared in a very disturbed state of mind.

Mr Claridge was at Sevenoaks when the prisoner was in his father's employment. He once observed the prisoner standing opposite a gentleman's house at Sevenoaks, gazing earnestly at the windows. He was surrounded by a mob, who were mocking him. He was satisfied the prisoner was not then in his right mind.

Mr Baron Wood proceeded to sum up the evidence. With respect to the letters which had been read, he said that they bore evident symptoms of insanity.

The jury found the prisoner not guilty, on the ground of insanity, but he was detained in custody.

ABRAHAM THORNTON

Acquitted on a Charge of murdering a Girl, and on being rearrested claimed Trial by Battle, April, 1818

THIS case is remarkable, not only for the lamentable atrocity of the offence imputed to the prisoner, but from the fact also of the brother of the deceased person having lodged an appeal, upon which the prisoner demanded "wager of battle," the consequence of which was the repeal of the old law, by which the wager was allowed in former ages, and which had already grown into disuse, although it still remained in existence.

Thornton was a well-made young man, the son of a respectable builder, and was by trade a bricklayer. He was indicted at the Warwick Assizes, in August, 1817, for the murder of Mary Ashford, a lovely and interesting girl, whose character was perfectly unsullied up to the time at which she was most barbarously ravished and murdered by the prisoner.

From the evidence adduced it appeared that the poor girl went to a dance at Tyburn, a few miles from Birmingham,

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on the evening of the 26th of May, 1817, where she met the prisoner, who professed to admire her figure and general appearance, and who was heard to say: "I have been intimate, and I will have connection with her though it cost me my life." He danced with her, and accompanied her from the room at about three o'clock in the morning. At four o'clock she called at a friend's at Erdington, and the offence alleged against the prisoner was committed immediately afterwards. The circumstances proved in evidence were that the footsteps of a man and woman were traced from the path through a harrowed field, through which her way lay home to Langley. The marks were at first regular, but afterwards exhibited proofs of the persons whose footfalls they represented running and struggling; and at length they led to a spot where a distinct impression of a human figure and a large quantity of coagulated blood were discovered, and on this spot the marks of a man's knees and toes were also distinguishable. From thence the man's footprints only were seen, and accompanying blood marks were distinctly traced for a considerable space towards a pit; and it appeared plainly as if a man had walked along the footway carrying a body, from which the blood dropped. At the edge of the pit, the shoes, bonnet and bundle of the deceased were found; but only one footprint could be seen there, and that was a man's. It was deeply impressed, and seemed to be that of a man who thrust one foot forward to heave something into the pit. The body of the deceased was discovered lying at the bottom. There were marks of laceration upon the body, and both her arms had the marks of hands, as if they had pressed them with violence to the ground.

By his own admission Thornton was with her at four o'clock, and the marks of the man's shoes in the running corresponded exactly to his. By his own admission, also, he was intimate with her; and this admission was made not before the magistrate, but before the evident proofs were discovered on his clothes; her clothes, too, afforded most powerful evidence. At four in the morning she called at a friend's, Hannah Cox, and changed her dancing-dress for

ABRAHAM THORNTON

that in which she had gone from Birmingham. The clothes she put on there, and which she had on at the time of her death, were all over blood and dirt.

The case, therefore, appeared to be, that Thornton had paid attention to her during the night—shown, perhaps, those attentions which she might naturally have been pleased with—and afterwards waited for her on her return from Erdington, and after forcibly violating her threw her body into the pit.

The prisoner declined saying anything in his defence, stating that he would leave everything to his counsel, who called several witnesses to the fact of his having returned home at an hour which rendered it very improbable, if not impossible, that he could have committed the murder, and have traversed the distance from the fatal spot to the places in which he was seen, in the very short time that appeared to have elapsed; but it was acknowledged that there was considerable variation in the different village clocks; and the case was involved in so much difficulty, from the nature of the defence, although the case for the prosecution appeared unanswerable, that the judge's charge to the jury occupied no less than two hours. "It were better," he said in conclusion, "that the murderer, with all the weight of his crime upon his head, should escape punishment, than that another person should suffer death without being guilty"; and this consideration weighed so powerfully with the jury that, to the surprise of all who had taken an interest in this awful case, they returned a verdict of not guilty, which the prisoner received with a smile of silent approbation, and an unsuccessful attempt at concealment of the violent apprehensions as to his fate by which he had been inwardly agitated.

He was then arraigned, *pro forma*, for the rape; but the counsel for the prosecution declined offering evidence on this indictment, and he was accordingly discharged.

Thus ended, for the present, the proceedings on this most brutal and ferocious violation and murder; but the public at large, and more particularly the inhabitants of the neighbourhood in which it had been committed, were far

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from considering Thornton innocent, and subscriptions to defray the expense of a new prosecution were entered into.

The circumstances of the case having been investigated by the Secretary of State, he granted his warrant to the Sheriff of Warwick to take the defendant into custody on an appeal of murder, to be prosecuted by William Ashford, the brother and heir-at-law of the deceased. He was in consequence lodged in Warwick Jail, and from thence he was subsequently removed by a writ of habeas corpus to London, the proceedings on the appeal being held in the Court of King's Bench, in Westminster Hall. On the 6th of November the appellant, attended by four counsel, appeared in court, when the proceedings were adjourned to the 17th, by the desire of the prisoner's counsel; and on that day the prisoner demanded trial by "wager of battle."¹ The revival of this obsolete law gave rise to much argument on both sides; and it was not until the 16th of April, 1818, that the decision of the Court was given upon the question. The learned judges gave their opinions *seriatim*, and the substance of the judgment was that the law must be administered as it stood, and that therefore the prisoner was entitled to claim trial by battle; but the Court added that the trial should be granted only "in case the appellant should show cause why the defendant should not depart without delay." On the 20th the arguments were resumed by the appellant's counsel; but the defendant was ordered to "be discharged from the appeal, and to be allowed to go forth without bail."

Though the rigid application of the letter of the law thus a second time saved this unfortunate man from punishment, nothing could remove the conviction of his guilt from the public mind. Shunned by all who knew him, his very name became an object of terror, and he soon afterwards attempted to proceed to America; but the sailors of the vessel in which he was about to embark refused to go to sea with a character on board who, according to their fancy, was likely to produce so much ill-luck to the voyage;

¹ See Appendix No. 1.

CHARLES HUSSEY

and he was compelled to conceal himself until another opportunity was afforded him to make good his escape.

CHARLES HUSSEY

*Who murdered a Wealthy Tradesman and his Housekeeper,
and was executed on 3rd of August, 1818*

ON the 31st of July, 1818, Charles Hussey, who had been a sailor in the East India Company's service, was indicted at Maidstone Assizes for the wilful murder of Mr Bird, a retired tallow-chandler, who lived at Greenwich, and his housekeeper, Mary Simmons, aged forty-four.

Mr Bird had amassed a considerable fortune, and he and his housekeeper were in the habit of attending Greenwich church regularly, but one Sunday morning, 9th of February, they were absent. The beadle of the parish went to Mr Bird's house and, not getting any response, forced an entrance at the back. On entering the house a shocking spectacle presented itself. The body of the housekeeper was found lying in the passage, the skull being frightfully fractured, apparently with a hammer. In a parlour adjoining the passage was found, lying on the ground, the body of Mr Bird, with his arms stretched out, and his skull fractured in the same manner as that of his housekeeper. On the other rooms of the house being examined, it became obvious that plunder had been the object of the murderer; and it was found that the pockets of the deceased had been rifled of the keys of the various drawers and boxes which were found above-stairs, marked with blood. Some silver spoons, etc., had been stolen, but it was unknown what other property had been carried off.

An inquest was held in the course of the week, but no circumstances were elicited to lead to the discovery of the perpetrator of the deed. During the three succeeding weeks several persons were apprehended on suspicion, but nothing material could be alleged against them. At length the murderer was pointed out by his own sister. This woman was married to a man named Godwin, and resided with her husband at Peckham. About a week after the

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murders had been committed, her brother, Charles Hussey, came to her house and said he was going to see his brother, who resided at Basingstoke. He said he should return in a week, but he did not do so for nearly a fortnight. She then said to him : "Oh, Charles, I have been so uneasy during your absence ! I have had such frightful dreams, and could not think what detained you." He replied, " Why, what could cause you to dream ?" and appeared greatly agitated. After he had gone away Mrs Godwin said to her husband : " I think there is something in Charles's box there should not be." With one of her own keys she opened the box, when she saw a couple of watches, which had belonged to the late Mr Bird. As Hussey did not return according to promise she informed the police, who, on searching the box, found Bank of England notes all marked with Mr Bird's initials. A search was made for Hussey, and some considerable time later he was taken into custody in Oxfordshire by a publican, named Poulton.

Hussey declared his innocence, but his criminality was too plain to be doubted, and he was found guilty. He was executed on the 3rd of August, 1818.

ROBERT JOHNSTON

*Executed for Robbery, on 30th of December, 1818, after
Shocking Scenes on the Scaffold*

ROBERT JOHNSTON was a native of Edinburgh, where he spent the first part of his life without reproach. His parents were poor, and Robert was employed as a carter. In his twenty-fourth year he got into bad company, and was engaged in the robbery of a chandler in Edinburgh, and being apprehended he was brought to trial with two others, and found guilty. His companions had their sentence commuted to transportation for life, but on Johnston the law was ordered to be put in force.

The execution was directed to take place on the 30th of December, 1818, and on that day the judgment of the law was carried out, but under circumstances of a most extra-

ROBERT JOHNSTON

ordinary nature. A platform was erected in the customary manner, with a drop, in the Lawnmarket; and, an immense crowd having assembled, the unfortunate culprit was brought from the lock-up house at about twenty minutes before three o'clock, attended by two of the magistrates, the Reverend Mr Tait and the usual other functionaries. The customary devotions took place, and the unhappy wretch, with an air of the most undaunted boldness, gave the necessary signal. Nearly a minute elapsed, however, before the drop could be forced down, and then it was found that the toes of the wretched culprit were still touching the surface, so that he remained half suspended, and struggling in the most frightful manner. It is impossible to find words to express the horror which pervaded the crowd, while one or two persons were at work with axes beneath the scaffold, in the vain attempt to hew down a part of it beneath the feet of the criminal. The cries of horror from the populace continued to increase with indescribable vehemence; and it is hard to say how long this horrible scene might have lasted had not a person near the scaffold, who was struck by a policeman while pressing onward, cried out: "Murder!" Those who were not aware of the real cause of the cry imagined that it came from the convict, and a shower of stones, gathered from the loose pavement of the street, compelled the magistrates and police immediately to retire. A cry of "Cut him down—he is alive!" then instantly burst from the crowd, and a person of genteel exterior jumped upon the scaffold and cut the rope, and the culprit fell down in a reclining position, after having hung during about five minutes only. A number of the mob now gained the scaffold, and taking the ropes from the neck and arms of the prisoner removed the cap from his head, and loosening his clothes carried him, still alive, towards High Street; while another party tore the coffin prepared to receive his body into fragments, and endeavoured unsuccessfully to demolish the fatal gallows. Many of the police were beaten in this riot, and the executioner, who was for some time in the hands of the mob, was severely injured.

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In the meantime the police officers rallied in augmented force, and retook the criminal from the mob, at the head of Advocates' Close. The unhappy man, only half alive, stripped of part of his clothes, and with his shirt turned up, so that the whole of his naked back and the upper part of his body were exhibited, lay extended on the ground in the middle of the street, in front of the police office. At last, after a considerable interval, some of the police officers, laying hold of him, dragged him trailing along the ground, for about twenty paces, into the office, where he remained upwards of half-an-hour, while he was attended by a surgeon, bled in both arms, and in the temporal vein, by which suspended animation was restored; but the unfortunate man did not utter a word. In the meantime a military force arrived from the Castle under the direction of a magistrate, and the soldiers were drawn up in the street, surrounding the police office and place of execution.

Johnston was then carried again to the scaffold. His clothes were thrown about him in such a way that he seemed half naked, and while a number of men were about him, holding him up on the table, and fastening the rope again about his neck, his clothes fell down in a manner shocking to decency. While they were adjusting his clothes the unhappy man was left vibrating, upheld partly by the rope about his neck, and partly by his feet on the table. At last the table was removed from beneath him, when, to the indescribable horror of every spectator, he was seen suspended, with his face uncovered, and one of his hands broken loose from the cords with which it should have been tied, and with his fingers convulsively twisting in the noose. Dreadful cries were now heard from every quarter. A chair was brought, and the executioner, having mounted upon it, disengaged by force the hand of the dying man from the rope. He then descended, leaving the man's face still uncovered, and exhibiting a dreadful spectacle. At length a napkin was thrown over his face, amidst shouts of "Murder!" and "Shame, shame!" from the crowd. The unhappy wretch was observed to struggle very much, but his sufferings were

MRS MARY RIDDING

at an end in a few minutes. The soldiers remained on the spot till the body was cut down, and as it was then near dusk the crowd gradually dispersed.

MRS MARY RIDDING

A Captain's Wife, who was sent to Prison for stealing a Child, 28th of August, 1819

MRS MARY RIDDING, the wife of Captain William Riddings, was tried at the Old Bailey, upon an indictment for stealing Benjamin, the infant child of John Schrier, fourteen months old.

The first witness was a little boy, seven years of age, named Samuel Schrier. He was sent out, with his three little brothers, before two o'clock, on Saturday, 28th of August, 1819; one of them was Benjamin. He took them to an adjoining field. A lady, who was the prisoner at the bar, came up to him and asked: "Is this Bancroft Place?" He replied: "Yes." She then asked him if there was a cake-shop near, and if the child (Benjamin) was his brother. He said: "Yes." She then gave him a shilling, and desired him to go and get threepennyworth of cakes, and took the child out of his arms to hold while he was away. He was gone about a quarter of an hour, and when he returned to the spot he found Benjamin missing, and searched all about the fields without being able to find him or the lady.

Sarah Holdgate said her husband kept a greengrocer's shop at Shadwell. On Saturday, 28th of August, the prisoner came to their shop, about four o'clock in the afternoon, to buy some fruit for a child she carried in her arms. The lady seemed very agitated, and trembled much. She said she had lost her way, was much fatigued, and wanted a coach to Old Street, and did not mind what she paid for it. Witness directed her to the nearest coach stand, and was, at the time while she stopped—for about ten minutes—struck with the difference in the condition of dress of the child and the lady.

Hester Hilder lived at the Cross Keys Inn, Gracechurch Street, and remembered the prisoner coming there on

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Saturday, the 28th of August. She had been there once before. This Saturday, when she came with the child, it was dark, and candles were lighted for her. She left the inn on the Monday following. The child, while at the inn, pined and fretted a good deal, as if it wanted its mother's nutrition.

John Schrier said, when he found that Benjamin was lost he immediately went to make diligent search, in the course of which he arrived at Birmingham, where he found Martin, the officer, who had arrived there before him. He was in an apartment with the child and the lady at the bar. Martin held up the child to him, which he immediately owned to be his, and accordingly took it. Martin then pointed to the lady, and said it was she who stole it. Either the prisoner or her sister-in-law, who was present, asked witness how he knew it to be his child. And he pointed out marks on the child's arm and eye, when one of the ladies remarked that he might have seen these marks since he came into the room. He refuted this by producing one of his printed bills advertising the lost child, which contained an enumeration of the aforesaid marks.

Joseph Martin, an officer, said he pursued the prisoner to Birmingham. He found her there on the Wednesday, with the child in her arms, at the door of her house. It was dressed very smartly, and she was nursing it. He did not speak to her until the Thursday morning, when the father came. He told him he thought he had succeeded in finding his child. He then went to the house, which was a bookseller's, and asked for Captain Ridding, who was out. He then asked for Mrs Ridding, who, with her sister-in-law, came downstairs, and he was introduced to them in a back parlour. Witness then said to them : "I am an officer of the police from London, and have a serious charge against you ; it is for stealing a child." She appeared dreadfully agitated at this intimation, and the sister-in-law equally so. The latter said : "What does all this mean, my dear? Speak the truth. What is there about this child?" "I will, then," said the prisoner. "The Captain has been long wishing for a child, and I went to London, determined to take some poor person's

SIR FRANCIS BURDETT

child, and adopt it as my own." The officer further said that when he first saw the child on the Wednesday it was elegantly attired in a lace dress; on the Thursday it had a new and different dress. The lady appeared to treat it tenderly, and offered to send a careful person up with it to London. She did not seem to wish to conceal the child at all, for he saw her dancing it in her arms at the bookseller's door.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty; but strongly recommended the prisoner to mercy. She was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment.

SIR FRANCIS BURDETT

*Fined Two Thousand Pounds at the Leicester Assizes,
23rd of March, 1820, and sent to Prison for
Three Months for a Seditious Libel*

THIS was an information filed by his Majesty's Attorney-General against the defendant, Sir Francis Burdett, for a libel. The first count charged that the defendant did on the 22nd of August, 1819, publish a certain libel.

The count then set out the libel verbatim, which was in these words :

To THE ELECTORS OF WESTMINSTER

GENTLEMEN,—On reading the newspaper this morning, having arrived late yesterday evening, I was filled with shame, grief and indignation at the account of the blood spilled at Manchester.

This, then, is the answer of the boroughmongers to the petitioning people—this is the proof of our standing in no need of reform—these the practical blessings of our glorious boroughmongers' domination—this the use of a standing army in time of peace. It seems our fathers were not such fools as some would make us believe, in opposing the establishment of a standing army, and sending King William's Dutch Guards out of the country. Yet would to Heaven they had been Dutchmen, or Switzers, or Hessians, or

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Hanoverians, or anything rather than Englishmen, who have done such deeds. What! Kill men unarmed, unresisting, and, gracious God! women too!—disfigured, maimed, cut down and trampled on by dragoons! Is this England? This a Christian land? A land of freedom? Can such things be, and pass by us like a summer cloud, unheeded? Forbid it every drop of English blood in every vein that does not proclaim his owner, bastard. Will the gentlemen of England support, or wink at, such proceedings? They have a great stake in their country: they hold great estates, and they are bound in duty and in honour to consider them as retaining fees, on the part of their country, for holding its rights and liberties: surely they will at length awake, and find they have duties to perform.

They never can stand tamely by, as lookers-on. whilst bloody Neros rip open their mother's womb; they must join the general voice, loudly demanding justice and redress; and head public meetings throughout the United Kingdom, to put a stop, in its commencement, to a reign of terror and of blood; to afford consolation, as far as it can be afforded, and legal redress to the widows and orphans—mutilated victims of this unparalleled and barbarous outrage.

For this purpose I propose that a meeting should be called in Westminster, which the gentlemen of the committee will arrange, and whose summons I will hold myself in readiness to attend. Whether the penalty of our meeting will be death by military execution, I know not; but this I know, a man can die but once, and never better than in vindicating the laws and liberties of his country.

Excuse this hasty address. I can scarcely tell what I have written; it may be a libel, or the Attorney-General may call it one, just as he pleases. When the Seven Bishops were tried for libel, the army of James II., then encamped on Hounslow Heath, for supporting arbitrary power, gave three cheers on hearing of their acquittal.

The King, startled at the noise, asked: "What's that?" "Nothing, sir," was the answer, "but the soldier shouting at the acquittal of the Seven Bishops." "Do you call that

SIR FRANCIS BURDETT

nothing?" replied the misgiving tyrant; and shortly after abdicated the government.

Tis true, James could not inflict the torture on his soldiers—could not tear the living flesh from their bones with the cat-o'-nine-tails—could not flay them alive. Be this as it may, our duty is to meet; and England expects every man to do his duty. I remain, gentlemen, most truly and faithfully, your most obedient servant,

FRANCIS BURDETT.

The information contained other counts, laying the charge in a different manner.

Mr Samuel Brooks lived at No. 101 Strand, London. He knew the defendant, and was acquainted with his handwriting. On being shown the paper in question, he said he believed it to be the handwriting of the defendant—it came to him through the hands of Mr Bickersteth, a professional gentleman; it was in an envelope, which had been mislaid—he did not look on the envelope to see whether it had a postmark on it. The envelope contained no direction to him, but merely to Mr Bickersteth, to pass it to him. When he received it, he supposed that it was intended that he should publish it. He sent it to several papers, and afterwards saw it in *The Times*, but could not recollect when. The letter was dated the 22nd of August, and he received it, he believed, a day or two afterwards.

Mr Tooke, an attorney of London, was then called, and proved the handwriting of Sir Francis Burdett on the envelope.

W. Simpkin, the keeper of the toll-gate near Kirby, being called, said that he saw Sir Francis Burdett near the gate on the 22nd of August, 1819. The gate was about a hundred yards from the house of Sir Francis Burdett. He saw him again on the following day about the same place. This was in the county of Leicester.

The witness retired from the box, but was recalled, and asked some questions by Sir Francis Burdett. He did not know that Kirby Farm was on the borders of several counties. He knew that it was in the county of Leicester.

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Mr Brooks was called again, and said that he had inserted the letter of Sir Francis Burdett in several papers, and among others *The British Press*. This paper was produced. When he sent the letter to the newspapers, its publication was left to their own discretion. They were not paid for it.

Sir Francis Burdett observed that he could not conceive why it should be considered disaffection in him to lament that soldiers had cut people to pieces ; or how it could excite disaffection in the military. He had addressed the letter to his constituents, and to the country gentlemen of England, with the very view of obtaining legal redress. He contended that the Manchester meeting, which was the subject of this letter, was not illegal ; for he had been in Parliament a quarter of a century, and he always understood that any number of persons might legally meet to present petitions, and it was not until very lately that a noble and learned Lord had twisted out some obscure points of law to prove that a meeting when it became very numerous became illegal. Until that declaration was made, all public meetings were considered as legal. In support of this assertion he quoted the opinion that had been given by Lord Chief Justice Holt, who declared that any person who killed another on account of being in a great meeting was guilty of murder. As to reading the Riot Act, it ought not to be read till there was a riot, when an hour was allowed to the people to disperse ; and there was nothing in this case to justify the sending of military among the rioters.

Mr Denman offered evidence to prove the statements respecting the Manchester meeting.

Mr Justice Best said that which related to the proceedings at Manchester was irrelevant ; he would allow no evidence of what had passed there.

Mr Serjeant Vaughan admitted the legality of the Manchester meeting at its first assembling, but denied that that question could affect the present case.

Mr Justice Best said he had no hesitation in saying that it was a libel. Nothing occurred that could form any excuse for the most intemperate of men saying that a reign

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of terror and blood was commenced in this country. The government rested not on the army, but on the affections of the people. If the paper was calculated to do infinite mischief, that mischief must have been intended. More poisonous ingredients never were condensed in one paper.

The jury conversed together in the box for about two minutes; the foreman then stepped into his place, and called out: "Guilty of libel."

The defendant was sentenced to a fine of two thousand pounds and three months' imprisonment in the Marshalsea of the court.

ARTHUR THISTLEWOOD, DR JAMES WATSON,
JAMES WATSON THE YOUNGER, THOMAS
PRESTON, JOHN HOOPER, AND OTHERS

*Leaders in the 1820 Conspiracy to seize the Tower of London,
the Bank of England and Military Barracks,
and to murder Cabinet Ministers*

ON the cessation of the war which ended in Bonaparte being exiled to St Helena, Great Britain found herself subject to those temporary domestic difficulties which always succeed a return from hostility to peace. Agriculture, trade and commerce became, for the instant, almost torpid, and thousands of the labouring classes were thrown out of employment.

In this moment of paramount distress the evil-minded and the designing, taking advantage of the disposition of the people, and urged by personal considerations, continued those attacks upon the Ministry of the country which they had hitherto made without success, and the people, whose attention was now withdrawn from the object which had hitherto served to keep their minds occupied, were easily led away and persuaded that the dangers and difficulties which appeared to exist were the result of bad management only, and were of a nature likely to be permanent, and most injurious to their well-being. The existence of the evil was attributed to some defects which were pointed out

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in the representative system ; and as this was considered to be the root of the evil, the name of Radical (from *radix*, the Latin word for a root) was given to the persons who espoused these new opinions. The party in itself, both as regarded reputation and numbers, was contemptible to a degree. Arthur Thistlewood, Dr James Watson, James Watson, jun., Thomas Preston, John Hooper, and a man named Hunt, who eventually became a Member of Parliament, were the most notorious of these agitators. Meetings were held in various parts of the kingdom, for the ostensible purpose of petitioning for parliamentary reform, and the metropolis followed the example.

The first meeting took place, 15th of November, 1816, in the Spafields, then a wild unenclosed space. The circulation of some addresses proved that the object of the meeting was not of that peaceful nature which its promotors pretended to ascribe to it. On the day appointed, soon after twelve o'clock, the assemblage of the mob commenced, and in less than half-an-hour about five thousand persons had collected round a party supporting tricoloured flags. A cart was placed on this spot, and in a short time Dr Watson, his son, and Mr Hooper, all carrying tricoloured cockades in their hats, ascended this rostrum, and were hailed with loud cheers. The Doctor and his son then addressed the meeting in most inflammatory speeches ; and the latter, having wound himself up to a pitch of the most ungovernable fury, called upon the people to follow him, and jumping from his elevated position he rushed, pistol in hand, at the head of the mob, towards Clerkenwell. The mob rushed the shop of Mr Beckwith, a gunmaker, and carried away all the arms they could find. They then marched under the guidance of their leader to the Tower, and then, while young Watson endeavoured to win the soldiers from their allegiance, by assuring them of the good feeling which prevailed towards them on the part of the people, and that they should receive a hundred guineas per man if they would join them, the mob continued to scour the neighbourhood in search of arms. While, however, the great body of the

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rioters had thus followed in the steps of their leader, others pursued a different direction, and, taking St Giles's, St Clement's and the Strand in their march, despoiled every shop which they approached of such articles as they deemed might be useful to them. The eruption was so sudden that the means of opposing the proceedings of the rioters could not speedily be obtained. The Lord Mayor, Sir Matthew Wood, showed great determination; and, notwithstanding the most violent proceedings on the part of these fellows, he and Sir James Shaw, the Chamberlain, succeeded in securing three of the insurgents, who had entered the Royal Exchange, and were armed with guns.

The military at length appeared, and many of the rioters were secured, while the others, having thrown away their arms, quickly disappeared. Young Watson, however, was nowhere to be found; and it appears that immediately after he quitted the Tower, being alarmed at his position, he hastily returned to his lodgings, and possessing himself of some papers and other articles went to a public-house in Fetter Lane, where he found his father and Thistlewood. The trio considered themselves as being likely to be taken into custody, and they in consequence quitted London for Northampton immediately. On their arriving at Highgate, however, they were seized, on suspicion of being footpads, but a scuffle taking place, the elder Watson alone remained in the hands of their assailants, while his companions effected their escape.

The Government had received information of a formidable and dangerous conspiracy, in which Dr Watson and others were stated to be deeply implicated, and the parties were in consequence apprehended, and with the Doctor were committed to the Tower.

A bill being found by the grand jury, Watson, Thistlewood, Preston and Hooper were brought up from the Tower to the Court of King's Bench, on the 17th of May, 1817. They severally pleaded not guilty, and were then taken back to the Tower, from which they were again brought up on the 9th of June.

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Dr Watson was first arraigned, and John Castles was the witness called to prove the most material facts against him. He said that he became acquainted with the prisoner about a month before the Spafields meeting, and saw him at the Cock, in Grafton Street, where he went to meet a society called the Spenceans. On the following night he met Watson and Preston by appointment at the Mulberry Arms, Moor-fields, at a society of the same description; and he there saw present young Watson, Hooper, Thistlewood, the two Evanses, father and son, and one John Harrison. After the meeting broke up he walked away with the elder Watson, who observed that it was a very easy matter to upset Government, provided a few good fellows would act together. He then said that he had drawn out a plan that would debar the cavalry from acting, by interrupting the horses, and that he had got several people who had solicited at different houses, and that they had formed a committee, which was sitting, to devise the best modes and plans. He inquired where the witness lived, and promised to call the next morning, and show him the plan.

In pursuance of this appointment he called at the lodging of Castles on the following Sunday morning, and produced several papers, one of which was a plan of the Tower, and another a plan of the machine, which he had described on the Thursday before, for obstructing the cavalry. It was to run upon four wheels, with sharp knives, which were to be on each side, and spikes in the middle. The knives were to be something like scythes, and placed horizontally. There were also several other drawings of the Tower Bridge, and different places and entrances about the Tower. "He then," continued Castles, "asked me how many men I could bring; and how many I knew. I told him I knew a great many, but I did not know whether they would act when put to the test; he begged I would exert myself as much as I could. I told him that I was a smith, and that I had nothing but my little business to live on; but he said never to mind that; they would find something better for me than that; they had plenty of money for everything. We then made another

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appointment, and I met him at one Newton's. Similar conversation took place there, and he said they had got a committee consisting of five—namely, Harrison, Preston, Thistlewood and his son, and himself—and that I should be made one of the generals, and head a party of pikemen and other men, and that I should hear further in a few days, and might consider myself as one of the committee from that time; that I should make the sixth, and they would not have any more.

“ Shortly afterwards I met the elder Watson, and we went to King Street barracks, and across the Park to a small magazine in Hyde Park, where the powder is kept, to examine the whole of the avenues, and determine which was the best place for setting fire to the barracks. There was also one Skinner with us, but he left us in the Park, and Watson said he had thought that Skinner was a cleverer man than he really was; that he had intended to have made an officer of him, but he found him not at all as he had calculated, as he had not any cultivated idea whatever.

“ About this time I was introduced to Thistlewood, by one John Harrison. Thistlewood asked me how much money it would take to make a few hundred pikes, and how long it would take me. I told him it would depend entirely on their size, and the steel or iron they should be made of. He said they should be about nine or ten inches long; and I told him that they would come to about fourpence or fourpence-halfpenny a pound. He wished me to make one for a pattern; and I told him I would, but that I had no place to make them in. Harrison replied that he knew a person who would lend me the use of his forge. Hooper and Harrison went with me to a little shop in a cellar, kept by a man of the name of Bentley, in Hart Street. I asked him to allow me to make use of his forge to make a pike, to put round a rabbit-warren or fishpond. He told me that if I would look out a piece of iron he would make it himself. When it was done it was given to me, and I took it away. I afterwards carried it to one Randall's, where I met the two Watsons, and Thistlewood, Harrison and Hooper; and

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Watson said that it was a famous instrument. Watson then wrote down the name of the house where the committee sat, No. 9 Greystoke Place, on a paper for me.

"A day or two afterwards the committee met in Greystoke Place, to deliberate upon the best plan to set fire to the barracks, and to get all the men we could together. When we met, Thistlewood produced a map of London. It was marked out with which were the best roads to take; and we arranged the number of men who were to be collected together at the different barracks and places to be attacked. The whole of the committee were to act as generals; to have their several stations, and were to attack the separate barracks at one given time and moment. Watson proposed Thistlewood as the head general. Thistlewood and young Watson were to take the guns and two field-pieces that were in the artillery ground in Gray's Inn Lane; Preston was to attack the Tower; Harrison the artillery barracks near Regent's Park; and I was to set fire to the King Street barracks, and either to take the men prisoners or kill those that might attempt to escape; the elder Watson was to set fire to the Portland Street barracks. We were to attack the whole of those places at a given hour, and set them on fire at one in the morning; we were to take any person we met and make them join us—such as gentlemen's servants; and coachmen were to be taken from their carriages, and those who could ride were to have the horses, which were to form a cavalry, and the coaches and carriages were to be used to barricade the entrances. After I had set fire to the King Street barracks, and after we had seen that all were in flames, and that none had made their escape, I was to meet the elder Watson at the top of Oxford Street. Harrison was to join us with the artillery, which he was to bring from the barracks by Regent's Park, and as soon as that was done there was to be a volley fired, to let the remainder know we had got possession of the artillery. Piccadilly Gate was to be fastened and chained, and a party stationed there to fire upon the horse if they attempted to come from the barracks, and then others were to proceed towards Charing Cross and

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Westminster Bridge, and barricade there all the avenues upon that side, to prevent them coming round by Chelsea and that way, and then young Watson and Thistlewood, after getting possession of the guns, were to break open all the oil-shops and gunsmiths' shops, in which they could find either combustibles or arms. They were then to blockade Chancery Lane and Gray's Inn Lane to St Giles's, where Thistlewood was to make his grand stand. One gun was to be pointed up Tottenham Court Road and the other up Oxford Street.

" Preston, if he had not succeeded in taking the Tower, was to barricade London Bridge, to prevent the artillery coming from Woolwich. He was then to barricade White-chapel, to prevent any troops coming from the country that way ; and then, when he had a body sufficient, the main body was to have met at the Bank."

Witness proceeded to give many more details of the plot, and described how, when an attempt was made to carry it into effect, the mob threw down their arms at the approach of the military, while the ringleaders escaped into the country.

On his cross-examination it appeared that the witness was a Government spy, and that his morals admirably fitted him for such an employment. There were few crimes, short of murder, with which he was not made to charge himself.

On the sixth day of the trial Mr Hunt and several other witnesses were called, whose testimony went to impeach the credit of Castles and others for the prosecution, after which counsel was heard for the prisoner, and the Attorney-General spoke in reply.

Watson having declined to make any defence after the ability displayed by his counsel, Lord Ellenborough proceeded to charge the jury, who returned a verdict of acquittal, founded apparently upon the incredibility of the testimony of the witness Castles.

It was not until the 24th of February, 1820, that the public were made aware of another plot to which Dr Watson was a party and which had for its object the assassination of

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the whole of his Majesty's Ministers. On the morning of that date a proclamation was plentifully distributed throughout the metropolis, offering a reward of a thousand pounds for the apprehension of the notorious Arthur Thistlewood, on a charge of high treason and murder, and pronouncing the heaviest penalties against all who should harbour or conceal him from justice.

It would appear that it had been long known to the Members of the Government that a plan was in meditation by which they would all be murdered, and that Thistlewood was one of the originators of and prime movers in the horrid design ; but in accordance with the system which then existed —of waiting until the crime should be all but matured, in order to secure a conviction of the offenders—they determined to make no effort to crush the scheme until a period should have arrived when their own safety rendered it necessary. The conspirators, meanwhile, having weighed various plans and projects for the accomplishment of their object, eventually determined to select the evening of Wednesday, the 23rd of February, as that on which they would carry out their plot, and it was deemed advisable that this night should be fixed upon because it became known to them, by an announcement in the newspapers, that a Cabinet dinner would then be held at the house of Lord Harrowby, in Grosvenor Square. Contemptible as the means possessed by the conspirators were to carry their design fully into execution, it is certain, from the confession of one of them, that the first part of their project was planned with so much circumstantial exactness that the assassination of all the Ministers would have been secured. It would appear that it was arranged that one of the party should proceed to Lord Harrowby's house with a parcel addressed to his lordship, and that when the door was opened his companions should rush in, bind or, in case of resistance, kill the servants, and occupy all the avenues of the house, while a select band proceeded to the chamber where the Ministers were at dinner, and massacred the whole of them indiscriminately. To increase the confusion, hand-grenades were

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prepared, which it was intended should be thrown lighted into the several rooms; and one of the party engaged to bring away the heads of Lords Castlereagh and Sidmouth in a bag, which he had provided for that purpose.

Thus far the conspirators might probably have carried their plans into effect; but of the scheme for a general revolution which these men—whose number never exceeded thirty—appear to have considered themselves capable of accomplishing we cannot seriously speak. Among other arrangements, the Mansion House—selected, we suppose, for its proximity to the Bank—was fixed upon for the “palace of the provisional government.”

The place chosen for the final organisation of their proceedings, and for collecting their force previous to immediate action, was a half-dilapidated tenement in an obscure street called Cato Street, near the Edgware Road. The premises were composed of a stable, with a loft above, and had been for some time unoccupied.

The information upon which Ministers proceeded in frustrating the schemes of the conspirators was derived from a man named Edwards, who pretended to enter into their views, for the purpose of betraying them.

Thus accurately informed of the intentions of the gang, measures were taken for their apprehension. A strong body of constables and police officers, supported by a detachment of the Guards, was ordered to proceed to Cato Street, under the direction of Mr (afterwards Sir Richard) Birnie, the magistrate. On arriving at the spot they found that the conspirators had taken the precaution to place a sentinel below, and that the only approach to the loft was by passing up a ladder, and through a trap-door so narrow as not to admit more than one at a time. Ruthven led the way, followed by Ellis, Smithers and others of the Bow Street patrol, and on the door being opened they discovered the whole gang, in number between twenty and thirty, hastily arming themselves. There was a carpenter's bench in the room, on which lay a number of cutlasses, bayonets, pistols and sword-belts, and a considerable quantity of ammunition.

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Ruthven, upon bursting into the loft, announced himself as a peace officer, and called upon them to lay down their arms. Thistlewood stood near the door with a drawn sword, and Smithers advanced upon him, when the former made a lunge, and the unfortunate officer received the blade in his breast, and almost immediately expired.

About this time the Guards, who had been delayed in consequence of their having entered the street at the wrong end, arrived, under the command of Captain (Lord Adolphus) Fitzclarence, and mounted the ladder; but, as the conspirators had extinguished the lights, fourteen or fifteen of them succeeded in making their escape, and Thistlewood, the chief of the gang, was among the number. A desperate conflict now took place, and at length nine persons were made prisoners—namely, Ings, Wilson, Bradburn, Gilchrist, Cooper, Tidd, Monument, Shaw and Davidson. They were all immediately conveyed to Bow Street, together with a large quantity of arms, consisting of pistols, guns, swords and pikes, and a large sackful of hand-grenades, besides other ammunition, which had been found in the loft. The same means by which the conspiracy had been discovered was now adopted in order to procure the discovery of the hiding-place of Thistlewood, and it was found that, instead of his returning to his own lodgings in Stanhope Street, Clare Market, on the apprehension of his fellows, he had gone to an obscure house, No. 8 White Street, Moor-fields. On the morning of the 24th of February, at nine o'clock, Lavender and others of the Bow Street patrol were dispatched to secure his apprehension; and after planting a guard round the house, so as to prevent the possibility of his escaping, they entered a room on the ground floor, where they found the object of their inquiry in bed, with his stockings and breeches on. In his pockets were found some ball cartridges and flints, a black girdle or belt, which he was seen to wear at Cato Street, and a military sash.

He was first conveyed to Bow Street, and there shortly examined by Sir R. Birnie, by whom he was subsequently conducted to Whitehall, where he was introduced to the

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presence of the Privy Council. He was still handcuffed, but he mounted the stairs leading to the council chamber with great alacrity. On his being informed of the nature of the charges made against him by the Lord Chancellor, he declined saying anything, and was remanded to prison. In the course of the week several other persons were apprehended as being accessaries to the plot; and, on the 3rd of March, Thistlewood, Monument, Brunt, Ings, Wilson, Harrison, Tidd and Davidson were committed to the Tower as state prisoners, the rest of the persons charged being sent back to Coldbath Fields Prison, where they had been previously confined.

The case of the parties to this most diabolical conspiracy immediately received the attention of the law officers of the Crown; and on the 15th of April, 1820, a special commission being issued, the prisoners were arraigned at the bar of the Old Bailey on the charge of high treason, and also of murder, in having caused the death of the unfortunate Smithers. There were eleven prisoners—Arthur Thistlewood, William Davidson (a man of colour), James Ings, John Thomas Brunt, Richard Tidd, James Wilson, John Harrison, Richard Bradburn, John Shaw Strange, James Gilchrist and Charles Cooper—and they all pleaded not guilty to the charges preferred against them.

Counsel having been assigned to the prisoners, and the necessary forms having been gone through, Thistlewood received an intimation that his case would be taken on Monday morning, the 17th of the same month, and the prisoners were remanded to that day.

At the appointed time, accordingly, Arthur Thistlewood was placed at the bar. He looked pale, but evinced his usual firmness. The jury having been sworn, and the indictment read, the Attorney-General stated the case at great length, and twenty-five witnesses were examined in support of the prosecution, among whom were several accomplices, whose testimony was satisfactorily corroborated. Some of those who appeared to give evidence had been apprehended on the fatal night in Cato Street, but were now admitted witnesses

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for the Crown. After a trial which occupied the Court four days, Thistlewood was found guilty of high treason. He heard the verdict with his wonted composure, seeming to have anticipated it; for when it was pronounced he appeared quite indifferent to what so fatally concerned him.

The evidence against Tidd, Ings, Davidson and Brunt, whose trials came on next in succession, differed little from that upon which Thistlewood was convicted, and they were also found guilty. Their trials, being separate, occupied the Court six days. On the evening of the tenth day the six remaining prisoners, at the suggestion of their counsel, pleaded guilty—having been permitted to withdraw their former plea—by which they eventually escaped capital punishment.

On Friday, the 28th of April, the eleven prisoners were brought up to receive sentence. After a most admirable and affecting speech, the Lord Chief Justice passed sentence in the usual form upon them, directing that, after they should have been hanged, their heads should be severed from their bodies, and their bodies divided into four quarters, which should be at the disposal of his Majesty.

The execution of Thistlewood, Ings, Brunt, Davidson and Tidd took place on the following Monday, at Newgate. Davidson was the only prisoner who did not reject religious consolation; and Thistlewood, when on the scaffold, turned away from the ordinary with an expression of indifference and contempt.

PHILIP STOFFEL AND CHARLES KEPPEL

*Guilt of Murder disclosed by a Prisoner's Ignorance
of Spelling, 1823*

ON Tuesday night, the 8th of April, 1823, Mrs Elizabeth Richards, a widow of seventy-five years of age, was murdered at Clapham. The unfortunate lady had resided for thirty years in the same house. She kept no servant, and had no inmate but an elderly lady, named Bell. The latter was in the habit of going out in the evening to attend a place of religious worship. A little after eight o'clock on

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the evening in question a neighbour woman called to see Mrs Richards, and found her dead ; she was lying on her back in the parlour, with an apron stuffed into her mouth. The pockets of the deceased had been violently torn from her side, and her watch and some money taken, as well as several articles of wearing apparel. The villains, however, had missed the principal object of their attack, for a large sum of money which was concealed in an upper room had escaped their search. A paper parcel was found in the hall, on which was written, " Mrs Bell, *hat* Mrs Richards, Clapham."

The sensation produced by this unprovoked murder was so great that a public meeting was called a day or two after at Clapham, and a reward of two hundred guineas offered for the discovery of the murderers. The active officers of Union Hall police office in the course of a week apprehended a suspicious character, Philip Stoffel, nephew to Mrs Richards, a ruffianly-looking fellow of about twenty years of age. When brought to the police office he denied all knowledge of the crime with which he was accused ; but on being requested to write " Mrs Bell, at Mrs Richards," he wrote the word "*hat*" for "at," in a hand precisely similar to that in which the superscription on the parcel found after the murder was written. Seeing himself detected, he exclaimed : " It is of no use—I was at the murder !" He then, unsolicited, gave a full account of the whole transaction, and acknowledged who were with him at the time. Previously, however, to this confession, another of the gang, named Thomas Scott, a rat-catcher, was in custody, and had been admitted King's evidence. In his confession, which gave a minute account of the whole transaction, he stated that the robbery was planned by Stoffel, who called in the aid of himself, Keppel and one Pritchard, but that the murder was the act of Keppel alone, Stoffel particularly desiring that they would not hurt his aunt.

In consequence of the information obtained by Scott's confession, the officers went in pursuit of Keppel and Pritchard. After having travelled from Gravesend to Portsmouth, they succeeded in apprehending Keppel, who

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was disguised in a smock-frock, etc. Pritchard escaped the pursuit of justice, as he was never apprehended. Keppel denied all knowledge of the murder, and behaved in the most hardened manner.

Stoffel had every expectation of being admitted King's evidence, but he was not so fortunate, and he was arraigned along with Keppel at the Croydon Assizes, on the 25th of July, for the murder of Mrs Richards.

Having been declared guilty by the jury, the learned judge (Mr Serjeant Onslow) put on the black cap, and passed the awful sentence of the law upon the prisoners. Keppel, whose conduct throughout the whole transaction had been most thoughtless and hardened, then directly addressed the Court in the most abominable language. He told the judge that he was a — old rogue, and damned him and his laws together; and was prevented from continuing his abuse only by being forcibly removed from the dock.

The unhappy wretches continued, up to the day of their execution, which took place at Horsemonger Lane Jail on the 28th of July, 1823, to exhibit the utmost levity of demeanour; but were at length brought to a just sense of their condition on the morning of their death, and were turned off, professedly lamenting their past misspent life.

HENRY FAUNTLEROY

*A Partner in a Leading Banking-House, who forged
Securities of the Value of One Hundred and Seventy
Thousand Pounds, and was executed at Newgate
on 30th of November, 1824*

THE station in society which was occupied by this unfortunate gentleman, together with the long-established respectability of the banking-house in which he was a most active partner, and the vast extent of the heartless forgeries which he committed, gave to his case an intensity of interest which has rarely been exceeded.

The apprehension of Mr Fauntleroy took place on the 10th of September, 1824, when he was taken into custody

HENRY FAUNTNEROY

on a warrant, issued in consequence of information being lodged, at Marlborough Street police office, that it had been discovered that in the month of September, 1820, stock in the three per cents. to the extent of ten thousand pounds, which stood in the name of himself, J. D. Hulme and John Goodchild, as trustees for Francis William Bellis, had been sold out under a power of attorney, to which the names of Mr Fauntleroy's co-trustees and of one of the subscribing witnesses had been forged.

The name of the firm with which Mr Fauntleroy was connected was Marsh, Stracey, Fauntleroy & Graham, and their banking-house was situated in Berners Street, where they enjoyed no inconsiderable portion of public patronage. The apprehension of Mr Fauntleroy, on one charge, no sooner became generally known, than, on inquiries being made, it was found that he had, under similar circumstances, sold out stock to the enormous amount of one hundred and seventy thousand pounds since the year 1814, the whole of which he had converted to his own use. The most extraordinary degree of interest was in consequence exhibited, and the public, apprehensive of the degree of mischief which might be revealed, became so alarmed that a run on the banking-house took place, which was checked by a suspension of payments, and eventually by a commission of bankruptcy.

His trial took place at the Old Bailey on the 30th of October, 1824, when he was indicted for forging a power of attorney for the transfer of stock in the three-per-cent. Consols. to the amount of five thousand pounds, with intent to defraud Frances Young. The Attorney-General was employed to conduct the case for the prosecution, and in his opening address to the jury he described the prisoner as the acting partner in the house of Messrs Marsh & Co. Mr Fauntleroy, the father of the prisoner, had become a partner in that firm at the period of its establishment, and had continued so up to the time of his death, which took place in the year 1807. The prisoner was then admitted into the concern, and became a most active member in carrying on its extensive transactions. In the year 1815

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Frances Young, of Chichester, a customer of the house, lodged in their hands a power of attorney to receive the dividends on five thousand, four hundred and fifty pounds of stock, invested in her name in the three-per-cent. Consols. The dividends were regularly handed over by the banking-house; but it was found that, soon after the period mentioned, another power of attorney, authorising the prisoner to sell the stock, was presented to the bank, and the sale was effected by him. To this power the prisoner had forged the names of Frances Young and of two witnesses to it. But the most extraordinary part of the case was that among the prisoner's private papers, contained in a tin box, there had been found one in which he acknowledged his guilt, and adduced a reason for his conduct. The Attorney-General then read the paper, which presented the following items:—De la Place, eleven thousand, one hundred and fifty pounds three-per-cent. Consols.; E. W. Young, five thousand pounds Consols.; General Young, six thousand pounds Consols.; Frances Young, five thousand pounds Consols.; H. Kelly, six thousand pounds Consols.; Lady Nelson, eleven thousand, nine hundred and ninety-five pounds Consols.; Earl of Ossory, seven thousand pounds four per cents.; W. Bowen, nine thousand, four hundred pounds four per cents.; — Parkins, four thousand pounds Consols. Sums were also placed to the names of Mrs Pelham, Lady Aboyne, W. R. and H. Fauntleroy and Elizabeth Fauntleroy; and the learned gentleman observed that all the sums were added together, and the sum total, one hundred and seventy thousand pounds, appeared at the foot of this list in the prisoner's handwriting. The statement was followed by this declaration:

"In order to keep up the credit of our house, I have forged powers of attorney for the above sums and parties, and sold out to the amount here stated, and without the knowledge of my partners. I kept up the payment of the dividends, but made no entries of such payments in our books. The bank began first to refuse to discount our acceptances, and to destroy the credit of our house: the bank shall smart for it."

WOOD AND LEITH

The Attorney-General then called his witnesses, who confirmed in every point his statement of the case.

Then the prisoner, after having completed the reading of a long document in his defence, sat down, and wept with much agitation. Seventeen gentlemen of the highest respectability were then called, and they all attested their opinion of his honour, integrity and goodness of disposition, and that he was a person whom, of all others, they would have supposed incapable of a dishonourable action. During their examination the prisoner buried his face in his handkerchief, apparently anxious to conceal his features from their view.

In summing up, the judge told the jury that, as the evidence did not show the forgery to have been committed within their jurisdiction, they, being a London jury, would have to decide on the count for uttering; and after twenty minutes' consideration they returned a verdict of guilty of uttering. Sentence of death was then passed.

Every exertion was used by Mr Fauntleroy's counsel—his case being twice argued before the judges, upon points of law; but both decisions were against him; and on the 30th of November, 1824, his execution took place at Newgate. The number of persons assembled on the fatal day was estimated at nearly one hundred thousand. Every window and roof which could command a view of the dreadful ceremony was occupied, and places from which it was impossible to catch a glimpse of the scaffold were blocked up by those who were prevented by the dense crowd before them from advancing farther.

GEORGE ALEXANDER WOOD AND ALEXANDER WELLESLEY LEITH

Eton College Boys, indicted for Manslaughter, 9th of March, 1825, as the Result of a Two-Hours' Fierce Fight

THE scene of this melancholy event, by which one youth, a member of a noble family, was hurried into an untimely grave, and two others were brought to the bar of a public court of justice upon a charge of manslaughter, was

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at Eton College, and it occurred on Monday, the 28th of February, 1825.

On the 9th of March, 1825, George Alexander Wood, son of Colonel Wood and nephew of the Marquis of Londonderry, and Alexander Wellesley Leith, were placed at the bar at the Aylesbury Assizes, charged with killing and slaying the Hon. F. Ashley Cooper, son of the Earl of Shaftesbury. The circumstances will be best explained as they appeared in evidence before the coroner.

On Sunday, the 27th of February, about two o'clock, two young gentlemen, scholars at Eton, the Hon. F. A. Cooper and Mr Wood, were in the playground, when some words arose between them. From words they proceeded to blows: they had fought for several minutes when the captain came up and separated them. It was subsequently determined that they should meet on the following afternoon and terminate their differences by a pugilistic contest. Many of the scholars were present to witness the battle. The combatants stripped at four o'clock on Monday afternoon and commenced fighting. Mr Cooper was under fifteen years, and his opponent, who was half-a-head taller, was nearly seventeen. Mr Wood had the advantage in point of strength; but the quickness and precision of Mr Cooper were remarkable for one so young, and he declared that he would never give in. In the eighth, ninth and tenth rounds he became weak and exhausted, and it was then evident that he was not a match for Mr Wood. Some of the "backers" had brought a quantity of brandy in bottles into the field; and the second of Mr Cooper having, in the eleventh round, poured a portion of it down Mr C.'s throat, he recovered his wind and strength. The young men continued to fight from four till nearly six o'clock; and when they were in a state of exhaustion they were plied between the rounds with brandy. They fought about sixty rounds, and at the end of the last round Mr Cooper fell very heavily upon his head, and never spoke afterwards. He was carried off the ground to his lodgings, at the house of the Reverend Mr Knapp, by his brothers, who were present at the fight.

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He was put to bed ; but no medical assistance was sent for till four hours had elapsed. Shortly afterwards he expired.

Upon the arraignment of the defendants they pleaded not guilty, and the witnesses for the prosecution did not answer. Mr Justice Gaselee having ordered their recognisances to be estreated, a verdict of not guilty was returned, and the defendants left the bar attended by Lord Nugent, Colonel Brown, Sir John Dashwood King and other persons of distinction.

EDWARD GIBBON WAKEFIELD, WILLIAM WAKEFIELD AND FRANCES WAKEFIELD

*Romance of a Wealthy Heiress who was abducted,
and married at Gretna Green*

THE extraordinary abduction of Miss Turner, a wealthy heiress, the daughter of Mr Turner, a gentleman of the highest respectability, living at Shrigley, in the county of Cheshire, by Mr Edward Gibbon Wakefield, excited an unusual degree of interest. The notoriety of the case renders it unnecessary for us to do more than give a general history of the circumstances attending the abduction, and the final termination of the proceedings against the defendants, Mr E. G. Wakefield, a barrister, and his brother William, and Mrs Frances Wakefield.

It would appear that Miss Turner, at the time of this affair, had just entered her fifteenth year. Her father was a man of large property, and was High Sheriff of Cheshire ; and with a view to the proper education of his daughter, who was a young lady of lively disposition, of quick perception, and also of great personal beauty, he placed her at the school of a Mrs Daulby, at Liverpool. She had been there for a considerable time when, in the month of February, 1827, Mr E. G. Wakefield and his brother William went to Macclesfield on a visit, where they learned the situation, the wealth and the beauty of Miss Turner. They soon formed a design, by means of which they

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proposed to secure possession of the person of Miss Turner. With this view they quitted Macclesfield on the evening of the 5th of March, with the professed object of proceeding to the metropolis on their route to Paris; but, instead of taking the road to London, at seven o'clock on the morning of the 6th of the same month they presented themselves at the Albion Hotel, Manchester, in a Wilmslow post-chaise. Having purchased a carriage in this place, they sent it to Liverpool; and at eight o'clock on the morning of Tuesday, the 7th of March, the newly bought carriage was driven up to the house of Mrs Daulby, and a servant alighted from it and presented a letter, which was in the following terms, and which he professed to have brought with him from Shrigley. It was addressed to Miss Daulby, and was as follows:—

SHRIGLEY, Monday night, half-past Twelve.

MADAM,—I write to you by the desire of Mrs Turner, of Shrigley, who has been seized with a sudden and dangerous attack of paralysis. Mr Turner is, unfortunately, from home, but has been sent for, and Mrs Turner wishes to see her daughter immediately. A steady servant will take this letter and my carriage to you to fetch Miss Turner; and I beg that no time may be lost in her departure, as, though I do not think Mrs Turner in immediate danger, it is possible she may soon become incapable of recognising anyone. Mrs Turner particularly wishes that her daughter may not be informed of the extent of her danger, as, without this precaution, Miss Turner might be very anxious on the journey; and this house is so crowded, and in such confusion and alarm, that Mrs Turner does not wish anyone to accompany her daughter. The servant is instructed not to let the boys drive too fast, as Miss T. is rather fearful in a carriage. I am, madam, your obedient servant,

JOHN AINSWORTH, M.D.

The best thing to say to Miss T. is, that Mrs T. wishes to have her daughter home rather sooner, for the approaching removal to the new house; and the servant is instructed

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to give no other reason in case Miss Turner should ask any questions. Mrs Turner is very anxious that her daughter should not be frightened, and trusts to your judgment to prevent it; she also desires me to add that her sister, or niece, or myself, should they continue unable, will not fail to write to you by post.

The allusion to the indisposition of the young lady to ride quickly gave the letter an air of authenticity, and its contents were immediately communicated to Miss Turner. On her seeing the servant, however, she expressed her surprise at his being strange to her; but the fellow, whose name was Thevenot, and who was in the service of Wakefield, answered with great readiness that, in consequence of Mr Turner's having taken a new mansion, he had made some alteration in his establishment, and had engaged him as butler, in lieu of the person who had before filled that situation. He added that the carriage would return by way of Manchester, where it would take up Dr Hull, who, it was known, had previously attended Mrs Turner, and that then it would immediately proceed to Shrigley. The extreme plausibility of the man's manner and story left no room for suspicion, and the young lady was in a few minutes handed into the carriage and driven off.

The vehicle reached Manchester in due course; but instead of going to Dr Hull's residence it stopped at the door of the Albion Hotel, and there the young lady was directed to alight. She was shown into a private room, but she had been there scarcely five minutes when Mr E. C. Wakefield presented himself. Miss Turner was at this time completely unacquainted with him, and she made to leave the room; but on his stating to her that he came from her papa, she remained. She proceeded immediately to make inquiries of him as to the state of her mother's health; but the necessity of some reason being given why she was not taken to Shrigley having arisen, Mr Wakefield told her that the fact was that the real cause of her removal from the school was the state of her father's affairs, and

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that the only reason why this was not at once communicated to her was a desire on the part of her parents to keep the circumstance secret from her schoolmistress and companions. He then introduced his brother William to her, and telling her that they were directed to conduct her immediately to Mr Turner, they ordered post-horses to be instantly got ready.

They then proceeded on the road to Huddersfield, and Miss Turner, buoyed up with the assurance of seeing her father at almost every stage, travelled all night until they arrived at Kendal, where she was assured that her parent would be waiting for them. Here, however, a fresh disappointment awaited the unhappy young lady. Wakefield, perceiving that she began to exhibit great anxiety, now found it necessary to become "more explicit" upon the subject of the state of her father's affairs, and he stated to her that the bank of Messrs Dainty & Kyle at Macclesfield had failed, and that an uncle of his, who was a banker at Kendal, had lent her father sixty thousand pounds; that this had partially relieved him, but that the Blackburn bank had also failed, and everything was now worse and worse; that her father was completely ruined, but that he (Wakefield) was his greatest friend; that his uncle could turn Mr Turner out-of doors, but that Mr Grimsditch, the legal adviser of the latter, had hit upon a plan which, if it were followed out, would make all right; that some settlements were to be drawn up and made, and some property transferred to her, so that her estate would belong to her husband, whoever he might be; that Mr Grimsditch had proposed that he (Mr Wakefield) should marry her, but as he had never seen her he had laughed at the proposition; that his uncle, the Kendal banker, had insisted upon his seeing her, and it now remained for her to determine whether she would accede to this proposition, or that her father should be turned out of doors. He added that she might come to a determination when she saw her father, who was then on his way to Scotland, pursued by sheriff officers. Imposed upon by these repre-

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sentations, Miss Turner permitted herself to be carried to Carlisle, on the way to Gretna Green; and on their arrival in that city the younger Wakefield quitted the party for a short time. On his return he said he had seen Mr Turner and Mr Grimsditch at an inn close by, but that in consequence of their dread of sheriff officers the former was afraid to show himself: that Mr Grimsditch, in his fear, had thrust him from the house, declaring his anxious desire that the marriage should take place immediately, for that as soon as the certificate arrived at Carlisle, Mr Turner would be released. He also added that Mr Turner had desired him to inform his daughter that he entreated her not to hesitate; for if she did, there would be an execution at Shrigley, and they would all be ruined.

With such an injunction Miss Turner, with a degree of filial solicitude which did her honour, hesitated no longer, but at once proceeded to Gretna with Mr Wakefield, where the ceremony of marriage was performed by the far-famed blacksmith in the customary manner. This done, she returned with Mr Wakefield to Carlisle, and there expressed her anxious solicitude with regard to her father's situation, and desired at once to see him, in order that she might be assured of his safety. A new subterfuge was adopted, however, and she was informed that her father, having now secured his liberty, and intelligence of her marriage having already reached him, had gone on to Shrigley, whither they were to follow him. Leeds was the point to which they next proceeded; and, on their arrival there, Wakefield recollects that he had an appointment at Paris, which he must keep in the ensuing week. He declared it impossible therefore that they could then go to Shrigley, and pretended to dispatch his brother to Cheshire with directions to conduct Mr Turner to London, where they would all meet. Wakefield and Miss Turner arrived at Blake's Hotel, in Prince's Street, Hanover Square, at half-past eleven o'clock, on the night of Friday, the 19th of March; but there a person who was in waiting declared that Mr Turner and Mr W. Wakefield had proceeded to France, so a chaise was directly

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ordered, and they started for Dover, and from thence by the first packet to Calais.

For several days the circumstances of the abduction remained totally unknown to the friends of the young lady; then the fact of her not having arrived at Shrigley having been discovered by Mrs Daulby, some members of the family were dispatched in pursuit of her, and she was traced to Manchester, and thence to Huddersfield; but there all trace of her and her companion was lost. The dreadful anxiety entertained by the unhappy parents of the young lady was soon still further excited by the receipt of a letter from Mr Wakefield, headed Carlisle, begging that Mr and Mrs Turner would render themselves quite easy, for that the writer had married their daughter. In a state of mind bordering on distraction Mr Turner instantly proceeded to London, for the purpose of procuring such aid as could be afforded by the police of the metropolis. His inquiries revealed to him that Mr Wakefield had carried his daughter to the Continent, and thither he dispatched the paternal uncle of the young lady, accompanied by his solicitor and Ellis, an active and prudent officer attached to Bow Street, and armed with a letter from Mr Canning to the British ambassador in France. In the meantime a letter was received by Mrs Turner from Mr Wakefield, headed Calais, in which the writer repeated the declaration that he had married Miss Turner, and taking all the blame of the transaction on himself as far as "over-persuasion" went. He added: "Miss Turner is fondly attached to me, and I do assure you, my dear madam, that it shall be the anxious endeavour of my life to promote her happiness by every means in my power."

Upon the landing of Mr Turner and his companions at Calais the first persons they saw were the young lady whom they sought and Mr Wakefield, who were walking on the pier. The exclamation of Miss Turner afforded a convincing proof that she had remained with Mr Wakefield unwillingly; for, crying out, "Good God! here's my uncle," she rushed from her companion, and was soon

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locked in the embrace of her relation, declaring how rejoiced she was that he had come to convey her home. Mr Wakefield, on finding matters take this turn, declared that the young lady could not be taken from him by force, and appealed to the civil authorities of the town as to whether any person could be hurried from the country against their will. The mayor immediately interfered; but when he applied to the young lady to ascertain her feelings upon the subject she clung to the protecting arm of her uncle, and exclaimed that she would "freely go with him, to avoid the sight of that man" (Mr Wakefield). Mr Wakefield still urged his right to the possession of the young lady, as she was his wife; but Miss Turner cried out: "No, no, I am not his wife! He carried me away by fraud and stratagem. He forced me to accompany him to Gretna Green; and there, in the presence of a third person, I was compelled to acknowledge him as my husband, and to be called his wife. By the same forcible means I was compelled to quit England and trust myself to the protection of this person, whom I never saw until I was taken from Liverpool, and now never wish to see again." Wakefield, finding his plans completely frustrated, said to the uncle: "Then, sir, you may dispose of your niece as you think proper, but you receive her at my hands as a pure and spotless virgin." Mr Wakefield also drew up an acknowledgment declaring that no familiarities whatever had passed between him and the young lady, and, having signed it, put it into the hands of Mr Turner.

Mr Turner and his niece then forthwith returned to England, while Mr Wakefield proceeded to his hotel, packed up his luggage, and started directly for Paris.

A question now arose as to the proper mode of proceeding in the courts of law against the offending parties in this extraordinary transaction. Warrants were, however, issued against the Wakefields, upon one of which Mr William Wakefield was apprehended at Dover within a few days after his brother's flight to Paris. He was instantly conveyed before the magistrates of Cheshire, where an examination

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of great length took place. After a long argument upon the nature of the offence he was committed to Lancaster Castle to await his trial, the magistrates refusing to take bail for his appearance at the assizes. Under a writ of habeas corpus Mr Wakefield was brought before the Court of King's Bench on the first day of the following Easter Term; and the depositions in the case being produced on the succeeding day, Mr Wakefield was admitted to bail, in a personal recognisance of two thousand pounds, and with two sureties to the amount of one thousand pounds each.

At the following assizes for the county of Lancashire, indictments were preferred against Mr E. G. Wakefield and W. Wakefield for "having at Liverpool feloniously carried away one Ellen Turner, spinster, then a maid and heir-apparent unto her father, William Turner, Esq., for the sake of the lucre of her substance; and for having afterwards unlawfully and against her will married the said Ellen Turner." An indictment was also preferred against the same parties, together with Edward Thevenot, their servant, and Frances Wakefield, their stepmother, who was alleged to have been concerned in the transaction, for a conspiracy; and the grand jury returned true bills in both cases, in the former, however, reducing the offence to a misdemeanour only. All the parties, with the exception of Thevenot, who was in France, appeared, and pleaded not guilty to the indictments; and Mr Justice Park, upon an application by the defendants, refused to postpone the trial. Mr E. C. Wakefield then claimed a right to traverse, and after some argument it was allowed him. Upon the 21st of August public curiosity was excited to the highest degree, in consequence of its being anticipated that the trial of Mr William Wakefield would then come on. The court was crowded to excess, and the ladies formed, as usual on such occasions, the principal part of the audience; but when Mr Wakefield was called, it was found that he was not in attendance. Great disappointment was felt by the public in consequence, and an order was made by the learned judge that the recognisances of the bail and of the defendant should be estreated.

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The interest which the public took in this case from its commencement was now doomed to be suspended for a considerable time; for it was not until Friday, the 23rd of March, 1827, that the general curiosity which was entertained with regard to the termination of the case was satisfied. The three defendants were then put upon their trial at Lancaster, Mr Brougham appearing with others for the prosecution, and Mr Scarlett for the defence. After a trial which occupied the whole day, and in the course of which the circumstances we have already detailed were proved in evidence, the jury returned a verdict of guilty against all three defendants.

The most remarkable part of the case was the examination of David Laing, the blacksmith at Gretna. His evidence simply amounted to proof that the Messrs Wakefield and Miss Turner had come to Gretna, being apparently agreeable to the match, and that he joined their hands and heard their acknowledgment in the usual form. The young lady, he said, presented him with a twenty-shilling note, and afterwards "embraced her husband very agreeably." The fellow, in his examination, declared that he had formerly been a merchant (that is, a Scotch pedlar), and that he had been forty-five years employed in joining hands at Gretna Green. He got thirty or forty pounds for this job. In appearance the old man had been made to assume an air of respectability. Someone had dressed him in a black coat, and a velvet waistcoat and breeches of the same colour, the shape of his hat being that commonly known as the "clerical cock." He seemed a vulgar fellow, though not without shrewdness, and had that air of familiarity which he might be supposed to have acquired by the freedom necessarily permitted by persons of a superior rank in life to one who was conscious that he had the power of performing for them clandestinely a most important ceremony. When he entered the witness-box he leaned forward towards the counsel with a ludicrous expression of gravity on his face, accompanying every answer with a knitting of his wrinkled brow and a significant nodding of his head, which gave

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peculiar force to the quaintness of phraseology which he assumed, and occasionally convulsed the Court with laughter.

On the following day Messrs E. G. and W. Wakefield submitted to a verdict of guilty on the second indictment; and upon the two findings the male defendants were committed to Lancaster Castle, there to remain until the ensuing term, when they were to be brought up for judgment in the Court of King's Bench.

On Monday, the 14th of May, Messrs E. G. and W. Wakefield were carried to the Court of King's Bench at Westminster to receive judgment, when affidavits were put in on their behalf, declaring that the latter had acted entirely under the guidance and direction of his elder brother. Mr E. G. Wakefield also swore that the expenses of his trial to him had exceeded three thousand pounds. The counsel on behalf of the prosecution having addressed the Court on aggravation, pressing for the severest penalty allowed by the law, Mr Justice Bayley addressed the prisoners. He dwelt in impressive terms upon the falsehood and art used by them to entrap the young lady into the marriage, and the gross delusions resorted to for the purpose of lulling her suspicions, and inducing her to yield to the design in carrying her off. He then referred separately to the conduct of the defendants, after which the learned judge passed sentence, which was that Edward Gibbon Wakefield should be imprisoned in Newgate for the space of three years, and that W. Wakefield should be imprisoned in Lancaster Castle for the like term of three years. Mrs Frances Wakefield, against whom a verdict of guilty had also been returned, was not brought up for judgment: the generous feelings of Mr Turner, much injured as his family had been, preventing him from proceeding with harshness against a female.

The next day a motion was made in the House of Lords by Lord Redesdale for leave to bring in a Bill to annul the marriage between Miss Turner and Mr Wakefield, when, after some discussion, the Bill was granted in the usual way.

WILLIAM CORDER

Executed 11th of August, 1828, for the Murder of Maria Marten, in the Red Barn, the Crime being revealed to the Victim's Mother in Three Dreams

THE murder for which this most diabolical criminal merited and justly underwent condign punishment was as foul and dark a crime as ever stained the annals of public justice. Maria Marten, the victim of his offence, was born in July, 1801, and was brought up by her father, who was a mole-catcher, at Polstead, in Suffolk, where she received an education far superior to her situation in life. Possessed of more than ordinary personal advantages—a pretty face and a fine form and figure—it is little to be wondered at that she was beset by admirers, and that, artless and inexperienced as she was, she should have imprudently fixed her affections upon an unworthy object. An unfortunate step ruined the character of the young woman, and a second mishap with a gentleman of fortune, residing in the neighbourhood of her father's house, left her with a child—which at the time of her death was three and a half years old. About the year 1826 she formed a third liaison, with the man who became her deliberate murderer, William Corder.

William Corder was the son of an opulent farmer at Polstead. Having become acquainted with the girl Marten, the consequence of an illicit intercourse which took place between them was a child. From that time he became much attached to her, and was a frequent visitor at her father's house. The child died within a short period of its birth, and from the circumstance of its having died suddenly, and of Corder having taken it away at night and disposed of its body in a manner which he would never explain, an idea was entertained that it had come unfairly by its death. However strongly this notion may have taken possession of the public mind, after the apprehension of Corder, it does not appear that any real evidence was ever produced publicly to support the impression which had got abroad ; but certain

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it is that the unhappy girl made use of the circumstance as a means of endeavouring to procure the father of the child to fulfil a promise which he had made that he would make her his wife. On the 18th of May, 1827, Corder called at the house of old Marten, and expressed his willingness that the ceremony should be performed; and he said that, in order that no time should be lost, and that the marriage might be as private as possible, he had made up his mind to have it celebrated by licence instead of by banns. The next day was appointed for the wedding, and he persuaded the unhappy girl to dress herself in a suit of his clothes, so as to secure the greatest secrecy, and to accompany him to a part of his premises called the Red Barn, where she could exchange them for her own, and from whence he would convey her in a gig, which he had in readiness, to a church at Ipswich. The girl consented to this singular proposition, and Corder immediately quitted the house, and was soon after followed by his unhappy victim, who carried with her such part of her own clothes as would be necessary to appear with in church. In the course of a conversation which took place between Corder and the mother of the girl, before their going away, the former repeatedly declared his intention to make the girl his lawful wife, and he urged, as a reason why she should go with him immediately, that he knew a warrant had been issued against her for her bastard children.

Within a few minutes after Corder had quitted the house he was seen by the brother of the girl to walk in the direction of the Red Barn, with a pickaxe over his shoulder; but from that time nothing was ever heard of the unfortunate girl, except through the fictitious communications received from Corder, who still remained at his mother's house at Polstead. The return of Maria Marten had been expected to take place within a day or two after the time of her quitting her father's house; but as she had before occasionally exhibited considerable irregularity in the duration of her visits to Corder, and as also there was an understanding that the latter should procure her a temporary

WILLIAM CORDER

lodging, little anxiety or alarm was at first felt at her prolonged absence. A fortnight elapsed, however, and then her mother proceeded to question Corder upon the subject, when he declared that she was quite safe and well, and that he had placed her at some distance, lest his friends might discover the fact of his marriage, and exhibit displeasure at the circumstance. Thus from time to time he put off the inquiries which were made of him ; but in the month of September he declared he was in ill-health, and quitted Suffolk with the avowed object of proceeding to the Continent ; and it is not a little remarkable that before he left Polstead he expressed great anxiety that the Red Barn should be well filled with stock—a desire which he personally saw fulfilled. He took with him about four hundred pounds in money ; and several letters were subsequently received by his mother, who was a widow, and also by the Martens, in which he stated that he was living at the Isle of Wight with Maria. It was remarked that, although he represented his residence to be in the Isle of Wight, his letters always bore the London postmark. At length strange surmises and suspicions began to be entertained, in consequence of no personal communication having yet been received from his supposed wife. The parents of the unhappy girl became more and more disturbed and dissatisfied ; and the circumstances which eventually led to the discovery of this most atrocious crime are of so extraordinary and romantic a nature as almost to manifest an especial interposition of Providence in marking out the offender.

In the course of the month of March, 1828, Mrs Marten dreamed on three successive nights that her daughter had been murdered and buried in the Red Barn. Terrified at the repetition of the vision, an undefined suspicion, which she had always entertained, that her daughter had been unfairly dealt with, appeared fully confirmed in her own mind ; and so lively were her feelings, and so convinced was she of the truth of the augury, that on Saturday, the 19th of April, she persuaded her husband to apply for permission to examine the Red Barn, with the professed

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object of looking for their daughter's clothes. The grain which had been deposited in the barn had by this time been removed, and, permission having been obtained, the wretched father proceeded to the accomplishment of the object he had in view. He applied himself to the spot pointed out to his wife in her dream as the place in which her daughter's remains were deposited; and there, upon digging, he turned up a piece of the shawl which he knew his daughter had worn at the time of her quitting her home. Alarmed at the discovery, he prosecuted his search still further, and when he had dug to the depth of eighteen inches, with his rake he dragged out a part of a human body. Horror-struck he staggered from the spot; but subsequent examination proved that his suspicions were well founded, and that it was indeed his murdered daughter, the place of deposit of whose remains had been so remarkably pointed out. The body, as may be supposed, was in an advanced state of decomposition; but the dress, which was perfect, and certain marks in the teeth of the deceased, afforded sufficient proofs of her identity.

As may be imagined, the whole neighbourhood was in an uproar of confusion at this most extraordinary circumstance, and information was immediately conveyed to the coroner, in order that an inquest might be held. By the time a coroner's jury had assembled, a surgical examination of the body had taken place; and Mr John Lawden, a surgeon, proved that there were appearances yet remaining sufficient to indicate that the deceased had come to her death by violent means. He said that there was a visible appearance of blood on the face and on the clothes of the deceased, and also on a handkerchief which was round the neck; that the handkerchief appeared to have been tied extremely tight, and beneath the folds a wound was visible in the throat, which had evidently been inflicted by some sharp instrument. There was also a wound in the orbit of the right eye; and it seemed as if something had been thrust in which had fractured the small bones and penetrated the brain. When the body was found it was partly enveloped in a sack, and was

WILLIAM CORDER

clothed only in a shift, flannel petticoat, stays, stockings and shoes.

No sooner had the body been discovered than all eyes turned to Corder as the murderer. Information having been dispatched to London, Lea, an officer of Lambeth Street, was forthwith sent in pursuit of the supposed offender. With a loose clue only, he traced him from place to place, until at length he found him residing at Grove House, Ealing Lane, near Brentford, where, in conjunction with his wife, whom he had married only about five months before, and to whom, it was said, he had introduced himself through the medium of a matrimonial advertisement, he was carrying on a school for young ladies. It was necessary to employ a degree of stratagem to obtain admission to the house ; but at length Lea represented that he had a daughter whom he wished to put to school, and he was shown into a parlour, where he found the object of his search sitting at breakfast with four ladies. He was in his dressing-gown, and had his watch before him, with which he was minuting the boiling of some eggs. The officer called him on one side, and informed him that he had a serious charge against him ; he also inquired whether he was not acquainted with a person named Maria Marten, at Polstead, but he denied that he had any knowledge of such a person even by name. He was then secured. Upon his house being searched, a brace of pistols, a powder-flask and some balls were found in a velvet bag, which, on its being subsequently seen by Mrs Marten, was immediately identified by her as having been in the possession of her daughter at the time of her quitting her house for the last time. A sharp-pointed dagger was also found, and this was identified by a person named Offord, a cutler, as being one which he had ground for the prisoner a few days before the murder was committed. The prisoner, immediately on his apprehension, was conducted to Polstead, in order that he might undergo an examination before the coroner ; and the most lively interest was exhibited by the vast crowds of people who had assembled to catch a glimpse of him on his being brought into the town. On his

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appearance before the coroner he was dreadfully agitated; and the circumstances which we have described having been deposed to by various witnesses, a verdict of wilful murder was returned against William Corder.

Thursday, 7th of August, in the same year, was appointed for the trial of this malefactor, and the anxiety to witness the proceedings in court, or to obtain early information in reference to the case, which almost universally prevailed, was strongly manifested by the assemblage of hundreds of well-dressed persons of both sexes round the front and back entrances to the shire hall, Bury St Edmunds, as early as five o'clock in the morning of that day. The rain fell in torrents, but many persons braved the weather and remained without shelter until nine o'clock, when the Lord Chief Baron (Alexander) arrived, to try the prisoner. At the moment his Lordship gained admission to the court the scene which presented itself beggars description. The barristers who attended the circuit, amongst whom were to be observed the counsel for the prosecution and the defence, in vain struggled against the pressure of the opposing crowd, and many of them, at the moment they had almost attained their object, were carried back in an exhausted state to the extremest verge of the assembled multitude. When his Lordship had taken his seat on the bench the names of the jury who had been summoned to try the prisoner were called over; but the crowd was so great, and the sheriff's force so ineffective, that it was almost impossible to make way for them into the court. They were, after the lapse of nearly an hour, brought over the heads of the crowd into the passage leading into the hall, some with their coats torn, their shoes off, and nearly fainting.

Nor was the curiosity of the public confined to the court-house. Hundreds had early assembled at the door of the jail and along the road leading thence to the shire hall, anxious to catch a glimpse of the accused. He left the jail at a quarter before nine o'clock, having previously attired himself with much care in a new suit of black, and combed his hair over his forehead, which he had previously worn

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brushed up in front. On account of the number of challenges made by the prisoner, it was some time before a jury was empanelled. At length, however, the prisoner was arraigned upon the indictment preferred against him. He pleaded not guilty. The evidence adduced differed but slightly in effect from the circumstances which we have detailed. Proof was given that at the time of the discovery of the body of the deceased marks were distinctly visible, which showed that she had received a pistol-shot or gun-shot wound; and it was also proved, by the brother of the deceased girl, that the prisoner, at the time of his quitting the house of old Marten on the day of the murder, carried a loaded gun.

The prisoner, when called upon for his defence, read a manuscript paper in a low and tremulous tone of voice. He declared that when he and the girl reached the barn, words arose, and Maria flew into a passion. "I was highly irritated, and asked her, if she was to go on in this way before marriage, what was I to expect after. She again upbraided me and, being in a passion, I told her I would not marry her, and turned from the barn; but I had scarcely reached the gate when the report of a pistol reached my ear. I returned to the barn, and with horror beheld the unfortunate girl extended on the floor, apparently dead. I was for a short time stupefied with horror, and knew not what to do. It struck me to run for a surgeon—and well would it have been for me had I done so—but I raised the unfortunate girl, in order, if possible, to afford her some assistance, and found her altogether lifeless; also, to my horror, I discovered that the dreadful act had been committed by one of my own pistols, and that I was the only person in existence who could tell how the fatal act had taken place. The sudden alarm which seized me suspended my faculties, and it was some time before I could perceive the awful situation in which I was placed, and the suspicions which must naturally arise from my having delayed to make the circumstance instantly known. I at length found that concealment was the only means by which I could rescue myself from the

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horrid imputation, and I resolved to bury the body as well as I was able."

The Lord Chief Baron summed up, and a verdict of guilty was returned. At this point the prisoner was observed to raise his handkerchief to his eyes; and during the subsequent passing of the sentence of death he seemed to be dreadfully affected.

On his return to the jail, Mr Orridge, the governor, made the strongest efforts to induce him to confess. He then exclaimed, "I am a guilty man," and immediately afterwards made a written confession. He subsequently appeared much easier in his mind, and attended service in the chapel immediately before being carried out for execution. Just before he was turned off he said in a feeble tone: "I am justly sentenced, and may God forgive me."

After the execution a spirited bidding took place for the rope which was used by the hangman; and as much as a guinea an inch was obtained for it. Large sums were offered for the pistols and dagger which were used in the murder, but they became the property of the sheriff of the county, who very properly refused to put them up to public competition. A piece of the skin of the wretched malefactor, which had been tanned, was exhibited for a long time afterwards at the shop of a leather-seller in Oxford Street.

JOSEPH HUNTON

*A Wealthy Quaker, who committed a Series of Forgeries
in the City of London, and was executed
8th of December, 1828*

THE case of this criminal excited considerable attention from the circumstance of his having been long known in the City of London as being a person of good repute, and also from the fact of his being a Quaker.

It appeared that a considerable number of forged bills of exchange had been put in circulation, and the result of the inquiries which were made by the Committee of

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Bankers for the Prevention of Frauds and Forgeries clearly fixed the offence upon Hunton. The bills were for the most part accepted in the name of Mr Edward Wilkins, of Abingdon, and purported to be drawn by the firm of Dickson & Co., of Ironmonger Lane, warehousemen, in which Hunton was a partner. It so happened, however, that intelligence was received in town, before several of them became due, that Mr Wilkins was dead ; and upon inquiry it turned out that the whole of the acceptances in the name of that person were forgeries. Hunton received speedy information of the discovery of the frauds of which he had been guilty, and when inquiry was made for him he was found to have absconded. Officers were immediately despatched in all directions to secure his person, and he was at length traced by Forrester, the city constable, to the neighbourhood of Plymouth. He directly started in pursuit with some others who were employed on the same errand, and, upon inquiry there, they learned that the object of their search was upon the point of sailing for New York in the Leeds packet, on board which he passed under the assumed name of Wilkinson. The officers immediately proceeded to board that vessel, and, under pretence of having a letter to deliver, they were introduced to the forger. When they informed him of the nature of their mission he was not able to utter a word, but rose and followed them, and was immediately conveyed to the shore. It is rather extraordinary that the first paper taken from his pocket was a letter directed to the editor of *The Times*, stating that the amount of the forgeries ascribed to him in a paragraph in that journal was considerably exaggerated, and requesting that an acknowledgment to that effect should be inserted in justice to the party accused, who would return as soon as possible and pay off all his pecuniary obligations. There was also found in his pockets the copy of a letter directed to the house of Curtis & Co., informing them that, as it was not convenient for the firm to discount any more bills for him, he should absent himself for a short time from London. These were both directed from Deal, and were no doubt intended to

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mislead, as the writer never went near Deal in his route. He had entered the packet in his Quaker dress; but in the course of a few hours he had put on a light green frock, a pair of light grey pantaloons, a black stock and a foraging cap. It was ascertained that he had previously entered a French steamboat on the river, with the intention of proceeding to Boulogne, and that he had been actually in that boat at the time of its being searched by some officers who were endeavouring to procure his apprehension.

Upon his arrival in town he underwent an examination before the Lord Mayor, upon the charges which were preferred against him; and several cases having been substantiated he was fully committed for trial.

At the Old Bailey sessions, on the 28th of October, 1828, the prisoner was put upon his trial, and he was found guilty upon a charge of forging a bill for one hundred and sixty-two pounds, nine shillings, with intent to defraud Sir William Curtis & Co. On the following Tuesday, the 4th of November, he was again indicted for a similar offence, for forging a bill for ninety-four pounds, thirteen shillings, when a similar verdict was returned; and at the conclusion of the sessions, notwithstanding the recommendation of the jury to mercy, he received sentence of death.

A considerable time elapsed before the case of this unfortunate prisoner was reported to the Crown, in accordance with the custom which then prevailed; and it was not until the 8th of December that his sentence was carried into effect. Before we describe the circumstances which attended the execution we must allude to a most extraordinary delay which took place in the report of the Recorder of London of the cases of no less than forty-nine prisoners confined in Newgate on various capital charges. It appeared that, his Majesty being at Windsor, the recorder proceeded to the Castle on Monday, the 24th of November, for the purpose of making his report, when three wretched prisoners were ordered for execution. In accordance with the usual practice it would have been the duty of the recorder to proceed forthwith to London to communicate the result

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of the deliberation of the Privy Council at Newgate, in order that the unhappy criminals, whose cases had been under consideration, might be at once relieved from the dreadful suspense in which, situated as they were, they would necessarily be placed. Monday night passed, however, and no intelligence was received of the learned gentleman, or of the decision which had been arrived at; and the greater part of Tuesday was permitted also to elapse before their dreadful anxiety was relieved. At five o'clock on that afternoon the clerk of the learned gentleman reached Newgate with the death warrant; and then only was it that the fate of the prisoners could be disclosed to them. The subject was brought under the consideration of the court of aldermen at the earliest possible period, with a view to the recorder giving some explanation of the very singular conduct of which he had been guilty; and he then stated that, the Council not having terminated until after eight o'clock on the evening of Monday, he was at that time too fatigued to return to town on the same night, and that though he started from Windsor on the following morning he was so long delayed on the road that he did not arrive in town until half-past three o'clock. This excuse, however plausibly it may have been put by the learned gentleman, was at least a lame one, and the remarks which were made upon his conduct at the time by the public, and by the Press, were confined to no very measured terms.

Although so many prisoners had been reported on this occasion, it was found that Hunton was not among the number—a circumstance which gave him undue hopes and expectations that he would be spared an ignominious death. A second report, however, was made on Monday, the 1st of December, when the wretched criminal, with three others, was ordered for execution on the 8th of the same month.

Hunton bore the intelligence that he "was certainly to die" with apparent fortitude. He was lying on his pallet when the ordinary entered his cell at a little after eleven on Monday night. Upon hearing the cell door open at so extraordinary an hour he turned round slowly and said:

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" Well, I suppose I know the news thou bringest? " " Yes," replied the ordinary, " Mr Hunton : you are, I hope, prepared for that which you have expected—you are to be executed." Hunton said : " Indeed I have been expecting that intelligence : it is no surprise, and yet my case has many palliatives which should operate with grace at the seat of mercy. Pray tell me who are doomed to die with me." The ordinary mentioned the other names enumerated in the report, and Hunton observed that he should submit with calmness to his fate. " But," said he, " wilt thou do me the great favour, friend Cotton, to permit my wife to come and stay with me alone before the time arriveth for the change?" The ordinary replied that he had not the power to grant any favour, but the request should be communicated to the proper authority, and no doubt every indulgence of a reasonable kind would be granted. During this conversation Hunton seemed to be perfectly resigned to his fate. It is singular that he never asked on what day he was to be executed. After the ordinary had assured him that he should be treated with kindness he turned about, and said, " Good-night, friend," and appeared to resign himself to sleep. In the morning he rose, evidently in a state of the most wretched dejection : his eyes were filled with tears, and he deplored the inhumanity of the laws, by which a man who had committed an act which did not deserve the name of fraud was to suffer death. The spirits by which he had been supported ever since his committal to Newgate altogether abandoned him : he wrung his hands in agony, and complained of the bitter aggravation of delay. When he first entered Newgate he said : " I wish, after this day, to have communication with nobody ; let me take leave of my wife and family and friends. I have already suffered an execution ; my heart has undergone that horrible penalty." A few days afterwards a person called upon him to request that he would explain some document relating to certain bills not yet due. In an instant he gave the required explanation, fully to the satisfaction of the person interested ; and when asked by the same individual what opinion he entertained of his own case—" Why," said

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he, " my case resembles the condition of this paper " (holding the letter upon his finger) : " a breeze of wind will turn it either way. Caprice may save or destroy me ; but I rather think I shall live longer." On the Tuesday he was visited by his wife and several of the Society of Friends, and he told them he knew that to hope would be to court deception. He was, during the whole day, a most painful object to those who went to console him. He groaned as if his heart were bursting within him, and seemed to consider this life all that a human being could wish for.

The execution of a man who was known to have moved in so respectable a sphere of life as the unfortunate Hunton failed not to attract an immense crowd of persons to the vicinity of the jail of Newgate on the morning upon which it was determined that his life should be forfeited. From the extraordinary efforts which had been made to save this unfortunate culprit, a very general belief was entertained that a respite would most certainly arrive for him even so late as on the morning fixed for his death. His safety was considered almost certain, and many were scarcely persuaded that he would really suffer even at the moment when the fatal cord encompassed his neck. The unfortunate man had, however, calmly composed his mind to meet his fate, and seemed to contemplate its approach without dread. He was on Sunday visited by several ladies and gentlemen of the Society of Friends, who were accommodated with an apartment, in which they remained in their peculiar devotions for several hours. Afterwards the unhappy man was attended by two gentlemen, elders of the congregation, who sat up with him in the press-room all night, during which time Hunton composed a very long prayer, appropriate to his situation and approaching death. He committed his thoughts to paper, and after he had completed the prayer he copied it, and directed it to his " dearly beloved wife." At half-past seven the two elders left the miserable man, after they had " kissed," and their absence was supplied by the attendance of Mr Sparks Moline, of Leadenhall Street.

Fifteen minutes before the awful hour of eight the

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under-sheriff's arrived at the prison, preceded by their tip-staffs, and were conducted by Mr Wontner to the press-room. At the end of this gloomy apartment was observed, sitting at a long table which was strewn with pieces of paper and books, the ill-fated Hunton; immediately opposite sat his "friend," Mr S. Moline. Hunton, on turning his head and observing the group of officers as they entered the room, said: "I pray thee stop a minute; I'll not be long." He then concluded reading, in a distinct voice, the prayer he had composed in the night; it was couched in the most impressive and devout language that could be imagined. In it he expressed his dependence on the merits of Jesus Christ, and a hope that when the spirit was separated from the body it would join the angelic host above in singing praises to the Son of God, and to the Almighty. Hunton had a very peculiar kind of voice, somewhat shrill and effeminate; he, however, spoke with firmness. There was nothing in his manner to condemn, but it showed a perfect self-possession. Mr Moline, when the unhappy man had finished reading, bowed his head, and responded: "Amen!" Hunton then rose and, folding up the paper in a hurried manner, said: "I am quite ready now." Mr Wontner approached him, and said he might remain seated for a short time longer; he thanked the worthy governor and resumed his seat at the table, and occupied his time by perusing some religious work before him. During this time John James, aged nineteen, who was condemned for a burglary in the house of Mr Witham, the barrister, in Boswell Court, and two others were brought into the room, attended by the reverend ordinary.

The wretched Hunton, during the pinioning of his fellow-convicts, conducted himself with the greatest calmness and devotion. He repeatedly addressed those who were to suffer with him, urging them to repentance.

All having at last been properly secured, it only remained for the unfortunate Hunton to undergo the same ordeal as his fellow-sufferers. The unhappy man was indulging in a sort of reverie when Mr Wontner tapped him upon the shoulder. He instantly stood up, and deliberately took a

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white stock from his neck and approached the officers. He stood firmly, and when the man was in the act of tying his wrists he said: "Oh dear, is there any necessity to tie the cord so fast?" The officer made no reply; upon which Hunton said: "Well, well, thou knowest best." He again complained of the cord being too tight about his arms, which was slackened a little, and the unhappy man said: "Thank thee, thank thee." After he had been thus secured he said: "Wilt thou allow me to wear my gloves?" "Yes, certainly, sir," was the reply, and with some difficulty he put them on, and still kept the prayer addressed to his wife in his hand. All being now in readiness, the mournful procession moved towards the scaffold.

Before Hunton left the room he said to Mr Moline: "Thou will not leave me, friend?" "No," said Mr Moline, "I will see thee to the scaffold." Mr Moline then supported the unhappy man along the passage to the lobby at the foot of the scaffold, where he sat down by the side of his friend, still holding the prayer to his breast.

Hunton was the last to be summoned by the officers. When his name was pronounced he turned round and delivered the prayer to Mr Moline, when each shook the other's hand and kissed lips, the unhappy man observing: "You may say I am quite happy and comfortable—fare thee well." He then quickly ascended the steps with the same unshaken firmness and deliberation which had marked his conduct throughout the trying period. He took his station under the fatal beam, and requested that a blue handkerchief, to which he seemed fondly attached, might be fastened over his eyes, which was accordingly done.

When the preparations of the hangman for the deaths of these unhappy men were completed, the Rev. Mr Cotton commenced reading a portion of the burial service, and at a given signal the drop fell, and the four unfortunate beings were suspended. A loud shriek from some persons in the crowd followed the close of the melancholy scene.

The sufferings of the unhappy men were but brief. The rope by which Hunton suffered was longer than the rest,

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on account of his remarkably low stature ; it soon reached its full tension, and he appeared to die instantly.

After the bodies had remained suspended for an hour they were cut down and removed into the interior of the jail, preparatory to their interment.

The unfortunate Hunton, it appeared, commenced business at Yarmouth as a slop-seller, and, having been exceedingly prosperous, he opened a concern of some magnitude at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. He also engaged in business as a sugar-baker in the metropolis. He had previously married a lady, a member of the Society of Friends, to which sect it will be perceived that he also belonged, and was supposed to be possessed of property to the amount of thirty thousand pounds. He then relinquished these concerns and entered into partnership with Messrs Dickson & Co., of Ironmonger Lane, who soon discovered that he was engaged to no small extent in speculations on the Stock Exchange, in which, as it turned out, he was particularly unsuccessful. A dissolution of partnership was the consequence, and then the unhappy man, driven to want and despair, committed those frauds which cost him his life. Up to the time of his absenting himself from London he had a large establishment at Leytonstone, in Essex, where he was always looked upon as an eccentric but highly honourable and respectable person. The appearance and demeanour of the unhappy man at the time of his apprehension were such as to excite the greatest commiseration amongst those who saw him. Although it would appear that the forgeries of which he had been guilty were of no trifling extent, at that period one hundred sovereigns only were found in his possession.



1930's - 1940's - 1950's - 1960's - 1970's



ESTHER HIBNER THE ELDER, ESTHER HIBNER
THE YOUNGER, AND ANN ROBINSON

*Tried for the Murder of a Parish Apprentice, who died as the
Result of Inhuman Ill-Treatment, 10th of April, 1829*

THESE unnatural women were indicted at the Old Bailey, on the 10th of April, 1829, for the wilful murder of Frances Colpitt, aged ten years, the parish apprentice of the elder Hibner.

Mr Bolland (with whom was Mr Alley) stated the case. He observed that the facts he had to lay before the jury would excite the greatest horror in the minds of those who heard the dreadful narration, but he thanked God that such a case as the present was of unfrequent occurrence in this country. The deceased, who was only ten years of age, was a pauper, and was apprenticed to the prisoner, Esther Hibner the elder, who resided at Platt Terrace, Pancras Road, by the overseers of St Martin's parish, to learn the business of fabricating tambour-work. She was apprenticed on the 7th of April, 1828, and in the month of October following a system of the most cruel and unnatural treatment was commenced by the prisoners towards the unfortunate deceased, and the other children who were placed under their care by St Martin's and other parishes. They were not allowed sufficient sustenance, were compelled to rise to begin work at three and four in the morning, and were kept at work till eleven at night, sometimes two in the morning, and sometimes all night. They had scarcely any bed to lie on; and frequently during the most inclement season their resting-place was the floor, and their only covering an old rug. The prisoners had good bedding and clothes, and every comfort that they desired. The children were not permitted to go out to obtain necessary air and exercise, and thus the cruel treatment they had experienced had terminated fatally with three of them. The child which was the subject of the present indictment had been reduced to such a deplorable condition

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that her feet had mortified ; and this, combined with the bursting of an abscess on the lungs, brought on by the ill-treatment the child had experienced, had occasioned her death. The breakfast which the children were allowed was a slice of bread and a cup of milk ; if they were indulged with this luxury, they had no more food all day. Sometimes the elder Hibner said the deceased and the other children had not earned their breakfast, and then a few potatoes were given them in the middle of the day, and nothing more till the following morning. Nine pounds of potatoes were divided amongst the whole family, which consisted of twelve persons ; they were allowed meat only once a fortnight. On Sundays they were locked in the kitchen, the windows of which were closed.

It was proved that the younger prisoner, Hibner, had taken the deceased from the frame, and knocked her down on the floor ; she had then taken the deceased up, and knocked her down again. When the elder prisoner was informed that the deceased was lying ill in the room, instead of affording her that protection which she was bound to do, she replied : "Let her lie there." The deceased, when in a state that she could scarcely crawl about the house, was told by the younger Hibner to clean the stairs. She attempted to do it, but fell exhausted, and was unable to accomplish the task. The younger Hibner then took the deceased upstairs and flogged her with a cane and a rod, and afterwards sent her down to finish the stairs. The children often cried for food, and, to satisfy the cravings of nature, had eaten the meat that was brought in for the dog, and also some pieces of meat which they picked out of the wash that was obtained for feeding the pig. It was also proved that all the prisoners had beaten the deceased, sometimes with a cane, sometimes with a rod, and sometimes with a shoe. The medical gentlemen who attended the deceased before death, and examined her body afterwards, proved that they found large sores on the feet of the deceased, and her toes were mortifying and falling off. After death they examined the body, and found it in

ESTHER HIBNER AND ANN ROBINSON

a most dreadful state, produced by the ill-treatment she had experienced from the prisoners, and from the want of proper food and nourishment. The case demanded the most serious attention of the jury, and he felt satisfied that they would give the circumstances the most serious consideration before they arrived at their decision.

Evidence of the apprenticeship by the parish officers, and of the dreadful state in which the deceased was found, was then given, and followed up by the testimony of three of the apprentices, who fully confirmed the narrative given by Mr Bolland.

The elder prisoner, Hibner, said she would leave her defence in the hands of her daughter.

The daughter said that the children had sworn falsely. They had been treated with the greatest kindness by her and her mother since they had been in their house, and there was not the slightest ground for the accusation which had been preferred against them.

Robinson declared that what had been alleged against her was false. She was engaged by the Hibners only to assist them in their business, and went home every night at eight o'clock.

The jury, after some deliberation, found the elder Hibner guilty, but acquitted the other women.

The sentence of death was at once passed upon Mrs Hibner, and she was ordered for execution on the following Monday; while the other women were directed to be detained, to be tried for the assault upon the deceased.

During the trial Mrs Hibner did not exhibit the slightest feeling of remorse for her crimes, or fear for the consequences of them; and when she was arraigned upon a second indictment, which charged her with the diabolical murder of another of her apprentices, she pleaded not guilty with all the firmness of conscious innocence, although, as the poor child's death had been the result of the same dreadful course of treatment adopted towards Colpitt, there could be no doubt of her legal and moral responsibility for the crime which had hurried the wretched being from the

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world. As a capital conviction had already been obtained against the prisoner, it was thought unnecessary to obtain the verdict of the jury upon this second indictment, and the horrid wretch was conducted from the court to the condemned cell in the jail. Here her conduct became violent in the extreme. She swore to Mr Wontner, the governor of the jail, that she would not be hanged, and became perfectly outrageous because she was not allowed to have a mutton chop for her dinner. On Sunday she had a last interview with her daughter; but it produced no effect upon her hardened mind, and she parted from her without a tear. She subsequently went into the yard, and as it appeared to the turnkey that there was something suspicious in her behaviour he sent a person after her, who found her bleeding from a wound she had inflicted in the front part of her neck with a knife, which, by some means, she had obtained, unknown to the attendants. From this time her behaviour was so violent that it was found absolutely necessary to apply the strait-waistcoat to prevent her from tearing the bandages off the wound. She confessed, soon after her attempt at suicide, to Mr Wontner that it was not her intention to kill herself, but merely to wound herself severely, thinking thereby that she would be allowed to live a few days longer.

When this was ascertained, Mr Cotton offered his spiritual advice and assistance to the wretched woman; but she refused them, saying that she knew enough of the Bible herself, and wanted no interpreter. Mr Cotton persevered until a late hour, but all his efforts proved useless. She listened to him with the most imperturbable patience, and never gave expression to either assent or dissent.

A little before eight o'clock on Monday morning, the 13th of April, the wretched malefactor was led from the condemned cell to the press-room. She exhibited a dreadful appearance. Her dress, a black gown, over which was a white bed-gown, and the white cap on her head, contributed, together with the sallowness of her complexion, to give her a most unearthly aspect. The sad procession then set for-

WILLIAM BANKS

ward, the miserable woman being carried by two men, as she absolutely refused to walk. On her arrival at the scaffold she was assailed with a loud volley of yells from the people, particularly from the females, of which the crowd was in a great measure composed. She did not make a single struggle, and appeared to die almost instantaneously.

Her body was cut down, after hanging the usual time, and delivered to the surgeons for dissection.

On the same day that this wretched being expiated her crimes upon the scaffold her daughter and her assistant, Robinson, were tried for the minor offence of assaulting the miserable children entrusted to their care as apprentices. Having been found guilty, they were sentenced respectively to twelve and four months' imprisonment in the house of correction.

WILLIAM BANKS

*Executed at Horsemonger Lane Jail, 11th of January,
1830, for an Armed Burglary*

THE Reverend William Warrington was a gentleman of large property, who resided at Grove Cottage, West Moulsey, in the vicinity of that well-known spot, Moulsey Hurst, Surrey. On the night of Wednesday, the 19th of November, 1828, his house was entered by four burglars, and a great quantity of valuable property carried off. Mr Warrington's house adjoined that of Mr Jeffs, a magistrate of the county, and a ladder, which had been accidentally left in the garden of the latter gentleman, was employed by the thieves in effecting an entrance to the house which they had determined to rob. The circumstances which attended the burglary were as follows.

Between one and two o'clock on Wednesday morning Mrs Warrington was in her bedchamber, engaged in writing, and Mr Warrington was in the same room in bed asleep, when the former was terrified by hearing some persons at the back part of the house attempting to force a window on the first floor, which opened on to a staircase and to a passage

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which led to the bedroom. Before she had time to alarm her husband, the fastenings of the window were wrenched off, without breaking the glass, and as she opened her bedroom door she beheld four men, who had entered by the window by means of the ladder before mentioned, in the act of ascending the stairs and approaching her chamber. Her fears were so excessive that she was struck speechless for a few seconds. When she recovered she shrieked, and exclaimed : " Good God, we shall be murdered ; there are thieves in the house ! "

Her husband was awakened instantly by her cries, and he had just time to leap from his bed and proceed in his shirt to the mantelpiece, on which he constantly kept a loaded pistol, before the four villains entered the chamber. He seized the pistol, levelled it at one of the thieves, and fired ; but without effect. The first man who entered the room, however, a dark, ferocious-looking fellow, in turn drew from under his coat a pistol, and presented it at Mr Warrington. The villain pulled the trigger, but the powder did not ignite. He recocked it, and pulled it a second time, but it flashed in the pan. Mrs Warrington fell upon her knees, and in the most earnest and affecting manner implored the villains not to murder her husband, but to take all the property without interruption. The thieves then produced some cords (which they had stolen from Mr Jeffs's garden), and tied Mr and Mrs Warrington's hands and feet. Their hands they tied fast behind their backs, and cautioned them to be silent as they valued their lives. They left Mr and Mrs Warrington in their bedroom for a few minutes, and proceeded upstairs to the servants' sleeping apartments, and there they bound two female servants (the only persons in the house beside Mr and Mrs W.) with cords, in the same manner as they had previously bound the others. After they had bound them the four robbers carried them downstairs to a vault which was under the house, and fastened them in that cold place, with scarcely any covering. The villains then returned to Mr Warrington's bedroom, searched his clothes, and broke open his desks

WILLIAM BANKS

and drawers, and, in truth, ransacked the house completely. They took cash to the amount of about thirty pounds, and jewels and plate of considerable value, with which they decamped. The servants had been confined for several hours in the vault when one of them, after much exertion, released one of her hands from the cord and forced her way through the door of the vault. After ascending some steps she found another door fastened, and she had to break through that before she could assist her master and mistress, whom she found in a most deplorable state of agitation. She unloosed the cords which secured them and, having released her fellow-servant also, they alarmed Mr Jeff's family and the other neighbours. Mr Warrington found that not only all his portable property of value had been carried off, but that the villains had stolen a horse, valued at eighty guineas, from the stable, and had taken his phaeton from his chaise-house, and by these means had carried off their booty. Mr Warrington sent information of the robbery to Mr Cooke, constable of Kingston, who set off in pursuit of the robbers. He was able to trace the phaeton and horse and two of the robbers from the house of Mr Warrington, by a very circuitous route, to Walton Bridge, and from thence through several by-roads to Knightsbridge.

On the same day Mr Warrington also gave information of the robbery at Bow Street, and Ellis, Ruthven and Bishop were directed to institute an investigation, with a view to apprehending the thieves.

Upon the arrival of the officers at the house of Mr Warrington various minute circumstances transpired which induced a strong belief in their minds that the robbery had not been committed by experienced thieves, but that it had been "put up," or sanctioned by some person in the house. The clumsy manner in which the boxes and drawers had been opened seemed to point to the first impression, and the undoubted circumstance of six buck-shot having been withdrawn from Mr Warrington's pistol, which had been lying on the mantelpiece for several days, led to the latter conclusion. Suspicion seemed to attach to one of

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the female servants, who had been familiarly accosted by her name, "Fanny," by one of the robbers, and who had been the first to secure her escape from the cords by which she had been confined, and she was taken into custody. After a few days' imprisonment, however, the officers declared themselves unable to produce any positive evidence against her, and she was discharged.

From this time the most anxious exertions were made by the police officers to secure the robbers. Every means in their power was tried; but although they succeeded in tracing them by witnesses to London, where Mr Warrington's phaeton and horse were found, they were unable to discover who were the persons by whom the burglary had been perpetrated.

In the month of July, 1829, however, the long-pending mystery was solved. A man named Barnett, a Jew, had been convicted of a burglary in the house of Mr Colebatch, in Thames Street, for which he had been sentenced to transportation for life; but, anxious to save himself from the infliction of this punishment, he tendered information as to the parties who had composed "The Mousley Gang," as they were now called, upon condition of his liberty being restored to him. The proposition was at once accepted, and he immediately impeached Banks and four other men, named John Smith, William Johnson, James Taylor and William Potts—*alias* Emery. The officers instantly set about endeavouring to procure the apprehension of these persons, and Cragg, a resolute officer of Bow Street, was directed to proceed in search of Banks. This fellow was a notorious thief, and was suspected to have been concerned in many robberies which had recently been committed. Cragg had heard that he had frequently declared his resolution not to be taken alive. Determined to succeed in his object, however, Cragg attired himself in the garb of a butcher and proceeded in search of him. Many days elapsed before he could find him; but at length he met with him and, rushing at him, presented a pistol at his head, and called upon him to surrender himself a prisoner. Banks appeared astounded

CAPTAIN WILLIAM MOIR

at this salutation, and made no resistance, but exclaimed : "I am a dead man." When his person was searched, a loaded pistol was found in his pocket, and on his back was a coat which was a part of the produce of a robbery in which he had been recently concerned, in the house of Mr Campion, at Waltham Cross.

The other prisoners were apprehended about the same time ; and Potts was proved to have pawned a pair of shoes which also had been stolen from Mr Campion's. Upon their examination before the magistrates at Bow Street, Banks's participation in both burglaries was clearly proved, and he was committed for trial. Both Mr and Mrs Warrington identified him as one of the persons who had entered their house, but pointed him out as having acted with some degree of humanity and strongly protested against the exercise of any cruelty by his companions.

Banks alone was committed for trial upon the charge of burglary at Mr Warrington's, the evidence against the other prisoners not being sufficiently conclusive to warrant their being indicted, and he was found guilty, and sentenced to death at the succeeding Surrey Assizes.

After his conviction he professed himself to be perfectly willing to meet his fate, as he knew nothing of a state hereafter ; he declared that all he cared about being hanged was for the pain it would cause him. He refused to receive any consolation from the chaplain, and was perfectly unmoved up to the time of his being pinioned.

He was hanged at Horsemonger Lane Jail on the 11th of January, 1830.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM MOIR

*Executed on 2nd August, 1830, for murdering a Fisherman
who had trespassed on his Farm at Barking, Essex*

THIS unhappy gentleman was a native of Forfarshire, in Scotland, where he was born, of a family of the highest respectability, in the year 1794. At the age of nineteen he entered the British Army, and during a period of seventeen

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years served with great credit in the 14th, 37th and 40th Regiments of Foot, in France, Spain and America. In the course of his sojourn in the latter country (in the year 1816) he was united to a young lady of exceedingly amiable disposition, who at that time had reached only her fourteenth year ; and upon his return to England he resided with his wife in the vicinity of London. Here he became acquainted with many families of high standing in society ; but, tired of an idle life, he determined to devote his time to the occupation of farming, and at Michaelmas 1829 he entered on the possession of Shellhaven Farm, which consisted of about four hundred acres of land, and was situated near Stanford-le-Hope, in the vicinity of Barking, in Essex. At this time he had three children, whose ages were respectively twelve, ten and seven years ; and there appeared every prospect of a continuance of that happiness which he had so long enjoyed with his family when, by an act attributable rather to passion or insanity than to preconceived deliberation, he subjected himself to the infliction of the severest penalty of the law.

Captain Moir was in the habit of pursuing a strict line of discipline with regard to trespassers upon his farm, and was considerably annoyed by the constant appearance of fishermen upon his lands, who resorted thither for the purpose of dragging a portion of the river which passed through them, and which was supposed to contain an abundance of fish of a superior quality and size.

On Wednesday, the 24th of March, 1830, a poor man, named Malcolm, who resided at Hammersmith, quitted home, in a boat, accompanied by his apprentice and a brother fisherman, named Duke, for the purpose of fishing. They proceeded to Shellhaven Creek, where Malcolm threw out his nets. Shortly after Captain Moir made his appearance, armed with a knife, and accompanied by a servant named Raven, and ordered the nets to be removed. Malcolm offered some observations of abuse towards him and reluctantly retired ; he was proceeding to cross Captain Moir's meadows, to go to the house of a man

CAPTAIN WILLIAM MOIR

named Baker, when he was called back, and ordered to go round by the sea-wall. He directed some further abuse towards the Captain and took off his jacket, as if to fight him, but at length went away. Captain Moir then returned to his house, and Malcolm and his assistants went to Baker's cottage. They had not been there more than an hour and a half when they went back to the creek, where Malcolm's boat was lying. At this time Malcolm had a boat-hook over his shoulder, to which was suspended a basket of potatoes, which he had obtained from Baker, and the party was again crossing Captain Moir's meadows, Malcolm being about seven yards in advance, when the Captain and his servant were seen riding furiously towards them. The former exclaimed that he thought he had ordered them not to trespass upon his lands; when Malcolm answered that he would go, or that he might go and be d—d; the precise observation was not distinctly heard. Captain Moir then suddenly presented a pistol and discharged it at him. Malcolm exclaimed that his arm was broken, and dropped his boat-hook; and the Captain threatened to serve his companions in the same manner if they did not instantly retire.

Malcolm was soon afterwards carried back to Baker's cottage, where he was attended by Mr Dodd, a surgeon, at the direction of Captain Moir, and was found to be in a position of such great danger as to render his immediate removal necessary. The poor man was subsequently attacked with lockjaw, and died after the lapse of two or three days. A conversation took place between Captain Moir and Mr Dodd upon the subject on the day of the occurrence, when the former justified his conduct, declaring that his land was his castle, and that he would do the same again the next day, under similar circumstances.

A coroner's inquest was held upon the body of the deceased fisherman, and a verdict of wilful murder was returned, and Captain Moir was committed to Chelmsford Jail, to take his trial at the ensuing assizes.

The case came on for investigation at Chelmsford before

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Lord Tenterden, on Friday, the 30th of July, when every effort was used on behalf of the accused, but to no purpose, and a verdict of guilty was returned upon the capital charge. The prisoner urged the absence of all malice on his part towards the deceased, and alleged that he had been compelled to retain loaded pistols constantly in his house, in consequence of the desperate characters by which his neighbourhood was surrounded. All, however, was of no avail, and sentence of death was passed in the usual terms.

After his conviction a strong and urgent appeal was made on his behalf to the Government, founded upon the suggestion that there was little doubt that the act on the part of the unhappy man had been dictated by insanity. It was declared, however, that it was too late to hope for mercy upon any such grounds, which ought to have been made the subject of inquiry at the trial, where, had they proved well founded, they would have relieved the prisoner from all criminal responsibility.

In the meantime the wretched prisoner, unconscious of the measures which were being taken by his friends with a view to secure his safety, diligently applied himself to the only duty remaining for him to perform on earth—that of making his peace with the Almighty. He attended divine service in the chapel of the jail on Sunday, and was afterwards visited by his wife, then only twenty-eight years of age, his mother, his sister, and some friends, of whom he took a most affectionate farewell. At about seven o'clock on Monday morning he received the Sacrament, and expressed himself perfectly resigned to his fate, declaring at the same moment that he had not the smallest degree of animosity against the ill-fated man whose death he had caused, and whom he had had no intention to kill. Throughout the dreadful concluding scene of his life he conducted himself in the calmest manner. He ascended the scaffold declaring that he was at peace with all mankind, and repeatedly denied that he had had any feeling of unkindness towards Malcolm. At nine o'clock the fatal bolt was drawn, and the ill-fated gentleman died instantaneously.

JOHN ST JOHN LONG

Captain Moir at the time of his execution, which took place on the 2nd of August, 1830, was only thirty-six years of age. He was a remarkably fine man, and stood upwards of six feet in height. He was brother-in-law to Sir James G. Baird (a near relative to the gallant Sir David Baird), and was first cousin to Sir William Rae, at the time of his execution the Lord Advocate for Scotland. He was descended, on his grandmother's side, from the heroic Bruce, and was also connected with the distinguished families of Blair of Blair, the Stewart and the Butes.

JOHN ST JOHN LONG

A Quack Doctor of Harley Street, who was convicted for the Manslaughter of a Woman Patient. When he died a Monument was erected to him by Grateful Patients

THE extraordinary investigation touching the offence of which Mr Long was guilty attracted to him more than ordinary public attention. The manslaughter of which he was convicted was the effect of a system of treatment which he adopted towards a young lady named Cashin, who had been placed under his medical care by her mother.

It appears that about the month of August, 1830, a lady named Cashin, of great respectability and considerable fortune, with her two daughters, came to London from Dublin, where they resided, for the purpose of procuring medical assistance for one of the young ladies, who was suffering from consumption. The ladies took up their abode in the house of Mrs Roddis, in Mornington Place, Hampstead Road; and Mrs Cashin, having heard much of the wonderful cures effected by Mr St John Long, determined to seek his advice and aid for her daughter. Mr Long, it seems, had not been regularly educated as a surgeon, but he had acquired considerable celebrity for a line of practice which he had adopted, and occupied a house in Harley Street, Cavendish Square. Thither Mrs Cashin repaired; and a short attendance upon the young lady, who was only sixteen

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years of age, was sufficient to confirm the melancholy fears of her mother that all human exertions on her behalf would be of no avail. The insidious nature of the disease by which she was affected was known and acknowledged by Mrs Cashin, and a desponding apprehension seized upon her mind that her elder daughter might also be attacked with this dreadful disorder. A new application on her behalf was therefore decided upon to Mr St John Long, who was requested to devise some means by which the impending mischief might be prevented. Mr Long participated in the fears of the young lady's mother, and acknowledged the prudence of the course which she had adopted ; and, bidding them at once give up their fears, he assured them of his perfect ability to attain the object which they so anxiously had in view. Miss Cashin at this time was twenty-four years of age and in the full enjoyment of health ; but, notwithstanding the absence of any necessity to take active steps in her case, Mr Long determined to employ his line of treatment upon her. The general nature of his treatment was simply this : in cases of internal disease he proposed, by creating an external wound and a discharge, to carry off the malady. In a few days the external wound was produced in the case of Miss Cashin—by what means did not appear, as the general mode of treatment was kept secret by the quack—and the effect was of the most dreadful description. The wound daily increased, and appearances soon presented themselves which so alarmed Mrs Roddis, the landlady, that she felt herself called upon to adopt measures on behalf of the young lady.

She wrote to Mr Long, and in a day or so he called. Mrs Roddis humanely urged that danger might arise from symptoms which appeared so violent ; but the doctor laughed at her apprehensions, declaring that the wound was going on remarkably well, and that he would give a hundred guineas if he could produce similar favourable signs in some other of his patients. It was represented to him that the wound had wrought a disease of another description upon the young lady—she was unable to retain anything upon

JOHN ST JOHN LONG

her stomach. For this he said he had a remedy with him, if he chose to apply it. He was an enemy, however, to physic ; the sickness was a favourable symptom, and the young lady would find relief from its disagreeable effects by taking mulled port wine. This, however, like everything else, was ejected from the stomach. Mr Long called again. In vain were certain angry appearances about the wound pointed out to him ; he remained positive in his declared opinion, and refused to take any new measures for the young lady's immediate relief.

Every day brought new symptoms, which were looked upon by Mrs Cashin as unfavourable and dangerous ; and at length Mr Brodie, of Savile Row, was called in. This eminent surgeon took every step possible for Miss Cashin, but all his efforts were useless ; and the very morning after his assistance had been obtained the young lady expired. When Mr Long was acquainted with the circumstance of new aid having been procured he assured Mrs Cashin that this was quite unnecessary, and he never afterwards called.

A coroner's inquest was summoned.

Mr Brodie's evidence was conclusive as to the cause of the death of the deceased. He had no knowledge of the manner in which the wound had been produced, but there was no doubt that it was that which had caused the sickness complained of, and which had also been the cause of death. He was at a loss to imagine how the production of such a wound could be supposed to have any effect in curing a patient of consumption, or in preventing such a disease.

Sir Francis Burdett spoke of the mode of treatment adopted by Mr Long with some of his patients, which he did not think dangerous. By his recommendation two persons had put themselves under Mr Long's care. He did not know the nature of the application used by Mr Long ; he had used it on his hand for gout, but it did neither good nor harm. He had waited on him, having heard he could cure tic douloureux, as he wished to have some information on the subject, with the view of apprising his friend, the Marquess of Anglesey, who was affected occasionally with that disease.

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Dr Alexander Thompson, who had examined the body of the deceased, Mr Thomas King, surgeon, Mr Wildgoose, surgeon, Dr John Hogg, Dr Thomas Goodeve, Dr James Johnson, Mr John Maclean and Mr Thomas Evans, who had all been present at the post-mortem examination, were examined. They all concurred that it was a perfectly healthful subject, beautiful in form, and free from all disease, save that occasioned by the wound in the back. Few people would have recovered after such a local injury, which appeared to them perfectly unjustifiable. A notion was entertained by some that it was advisable to produce an external illness for the purpose of drawing off an internal disease.

Witnesses who had been patients of Mr Long, for different diseases, and to whom the same mode of treatment had been applied, spoke of the advantageous effects which had accrued.

Among other witnesses examined were the Countess of Buckinghamshire, Mr Prendergast, M.P., and Mr Higgs, the brewer, all of whom spoke in high terms of Mr Long's treatment, and of the virtues of his lotion for curing various complaints.

At five o'clock the jury retired to consider their decision upon the case ; and at eight o'clock returned, and announced their verdict of manslaughter against Mr St John Long.

Mr Long subsequently surrendered to the warrant, and was admitted to bail to answer the charge ; but when the case was called for trial at the ensuing Old Bailey sessions, on the 18th of September, it was postponed, owing to the absence of some material witnesses for the prosecution.

On the 30th of October Mr Long was placed upon his trial, when the same facts which we have detailed were stated in evidence. After an ample investigation a verdict of manslaughter was again returned. Mr Long was then committed to Newgate to await his sentence ; but on the following Monday he was again placed at the bar. The Court then passed sentence upon him, condemning him to pay a fine of two hundred and fifty pounds to the King. The money was immediately paid, and the defendant was discharged out of custody.

JOHN ST JOHN LONG

The case had created a great degree of interest in society, from the vast number of persons whom Mr Long had attended, and many honourable and right honourable persons were present at his trial; but the public excitement was still further aroused when a subsequent charge of a similar nature was brought against him.

On Wednesday morning, the 10th of November, 1830, at eleven o'clock, J. H. Gell, Esq., and a highly respectable jury assembled at the Wilton Arms, Kinnerton Street, Knightsbridge, to inquire into the death of Mrs Colin Campbell Lloyd, aged forty-eight, the wife of Captain Edward Lloyd, of the Royal Navy, whose death was alleged to have been occasioned by the treatment she had experienced under the hands of Mr St John Long.

The jury retired for about half-an-hour, and then returned the following verdict: "The jury, having attentively and deliberately considered their verdict, can come to no other than manslaughter against John St John Long."

The coroner inquired on what grounds they found their verdict.

The foreman said: "On the ground of gross ignorance, and on other considerations."

Upon this second charge Mr Long was tried at the Old Bailey on the 19th of February, 1831. The jury, however, returned a verdict of not guilty.

Several ladies, elegantly dressed, remained with the prisoner in the dock throughout the day, to whom this verdict appeared to give great satisfaction.

Mr Long died in the year 1834, and his body was consigned to a tomb in the Harrow Road Cemetery, where a monument was erected to his memory at the cost of his former patients, who, in an inscription, paid a handsome tribute to his talents.

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JOHN TAYLOR AND THOMAS MARTIN

A Body-Snatcher's Humorous Story of his Adventure, as told at the London Sessions, 21st of April, 1831

THESE men were indicted at the London Sessions on Thursday, the 21st of April, 1831, for having stolen the body of an old man, named Gardiner, from St Bartholomew's Hospital. Taylor was recognised as a notorious "body-snatcher," or resurrectionist, and Martin was an undertaker.

Taylor had taken the old man, who had a spinal disease, to the hospital. In a very short time the patient died, and Taylor contrived to get possession of the body by a manœuvre, and assured the daughter of the deceased that her father had been ordered to be buried quickly, on account of the mortification which had taken place. Martin accompanied Taylor when he made application for the body at the hospital, and gave a wrong name and address. It was soon discovered by the daughter that the body of her father had been removed, and the two prisoners were taken into custody.

Taylor defended himself in the (literally) following manner : " You see, please you, my Lord, I sees the poor old gentleman walking in Fleet Lane, wery bad ; and so, says he, ' Jack, I feels queerish, and I don't suppose as how I'll get over this here caper.' So, you see, I takes him into a publick-house and gives him half-a-pint of beer quite warm, and a pipe of backy, and so he stays there till six or seven o'clock ; and then, says he, ' Jack, you must get me a place for to lay upon ' ; but they wouldn't have him in no house whatsomdever ; for, please you, my Lord, he warn't without warmint. (*Laughter.*) Well, then, my Lord, you see he gets worse, and he axed me to take him to the hospital ; and didn't I take him ? "

ALDERMAN WINCHESTER : Yes, and you took him away from it too. (*Laughter.*)

TAYLOR : Well, my Lord, you see, when I sees him snug and comfortable in the bed, I goes off to his daughter, and I told she, and she warn't by no means bevaricated at it ;

JOHN TAYLOR AND THOMAS MARTIN

but she said she was obligated to me for my civility and my humanity, you see, for taking care of the poor old creature wot was so wery bad. And so the old gentleman wanted a shirt wery bad, and I goes to his daughter, and I gets one with a frill to it, and I puts it on him ; and so his daughter suddenly turns against me, and she gives me in charge, though I was so kind, for stealing the shirt ; and I'm blest if they didn't try me for it at the Old Bailey. (*A laugh.*)

SERJEANT ARABIN : I know they did, for I tried you for the robbery. (*Loud laughter.*)

TAYLOR : Please you, my Lord, I think you was my judge. Well, you see, my Lord, they couldn't do nothing with me.

SERJEANT ARABIN : Come to the point.

TAYLOR : Well, my Lord, I'll come soon enough. (*Loud laughter.*) So you see, she says to me, "Jack," says she, "I'll go to see the old gentleman the next day morning to the hospital, for I believe he's poorly" ; and please you, my Lord, when she goes there she couldn't find nobody at all, for the body warn't there, because as how somebody tuck it away. (*Roars of laughter.*)

SERJEANT ARABIN : No doubt of it ; you took it away, and can you prove where 'tis buried ?

TAYLOR : Why you see, my Lord, I suppose it's in the ground, for what else would you do with it ? Ven the breath goes avay from us, there's no use in going further, for then there's an end of the caper. (*Excessive laughter, in which the Court joined.*) Vell, my Lord, I never seed the body arterwards ; and then they comes up to me, and they charges me with robbing it. But please you, my Lord, what could I do with it if I had it ? It ain't like the body of a cow, or a sheep ; and you don't think I'm sich a feller as would do what the black beggars does with the people wot they kills. (*Loud laughter.*)

The jury told Serjeant Arabin that it was unnecessary to sum up, and found the prisoners guilty.

Taylor was sentenced to imprisonment for nine months, and Martin for three months.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

JOSEPH PLANT STEVENS

A Trickster, who was transported for robbing a Guileless Farmer, 25th of May, 1831

THIS fellow was one of the class called "magsmen." The robbery of which he was convicted sufficiently explains the name, and affords a good specimen of the arts of London sharpers. The trick to which he resorted has now become very stale and is sufficiently notorious; but flats are still to be found who foolishly submit to be robbed with their eyes open in the same manner.

At the Surrey Sessions, on the 25th of May, 1831, Joseph Plant Stevens was indicted for stealing thirty pounds from the person of Thomas Young, a farmer and hop-grower of Sevenoaks, Kent.

The prosecutor, who was an elderly man, stated that he was proceeding along Bishopsgate Street, when he was accosted by a well-dressed young man of diminutive stature, who asked him if he was not a hop-grower from Kent. The reply being in the affirmative, the stranger and he then entered into conversation, which turned to politics. After discussing the then all-absorbing Reform question, they proposed to call at the Three Tuns, in the Borough, near to which tavern they had now arrived, to have some gin-and-water. While they were drinking it the young man spoke of the respectability of his own family; he said he was a native of Brighton, and that he had come up to London to make some inquiries respecting a rich relative, from whom he had expectations. While sitting in the room conversing on the subjects alluded to the prisoner walked in and, seating himself at the same table with them, called for a glass of brandy-and-water. He affected to be a stranger. After sipping a little of his liquor he began to talk on the question of Reform. After he had passed a high eulogium on the King and his Ministers he began to talk about himself, and commenced by saying that he was a very lucky fellow, a Chancery suit having just been

JOSEPH PLANT STEVENS

decided in his favour ; he added that he had eight hundred pounds then in his possession, and that he had fallen heir to eight hundred pounds per annum by the decision of the Court.

The farmer, perceiving him take a roll of what appeared to be bank-notes out of his pocket, advised him strongly to put up the money again, telling him at the same time that London was infested with sharpers, and that if he did not take great care he would assuredly be "choused" out of it by some of the knowing ones, who lurked about in all quarters in search of their prey. The prisoner spoke in a broad country dialect. After the farmer had given him the advice just mentioned, the short young man, who no doubt was in league with the prisoner, said to the latter : "This is a nice steady old gentleman, and I think the least you can do is to present him with a gown-piece for his wife, as some acknowledgment for his good advice." The prisoner at once assented to the proposition, and, taking a guinea out of his fob, said that he thought it better to give the farmer a guinea for his wife, and she could then please herself as to the pattern. The prisoner desired the farmer to give him his purse, in order that he might place the guinea with the rest of the money. The farmer very foolishly did as he was required, and the result was that the prisoner, by a dexterous movement, slipped some tissue-paper into the purse in lieu of six five-pound notes which had been previously there. So skilfully was the trick managed that the farmer did not discover he had been robbed until some time after, when, visiting Mr Stevens, a hop-factor, in Union Street, and recounting to that gentleman the kind treatment he had experienced at the Three Tuns, the discovery was made of the tissue-paper being substituted for his Bank of England notes.

The jury found the prisoner guilty. After the verdict was delivered it was stated to the Court that a poor man from Oxfordshire, who was then in court, had been robbed by him in the previous November under similar circumstances.

The chairman said there was no doubt that the prisoner

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was one of a gang of thieves who had committed many robberies of this description ; and, as it was necessary to make an example in this instance, the sentence of the Court was that he should be transported for life.

JOHN AMY BIRD BELL

*A Fourteen-year-old Criminal, who murdered another Boy
for the sake of Nine Shillings, and was executed
on 1st August, 1831*

THIS malefactor, at the time of his execution, was only fourteen years of age. He was indicted at the Maidstone Assizes on Friday, the 29th of July, 1831, for the wilful murder of Richard F. Taylor, a boy aged only thirteen years, in a wood in the parish of Chatham.

From the evidence it appeared that Taylor was the son of a poor man, a tallow-chandler, who lived at Stroud. On Friday, the 4th of March, the little fellow, who was described as having been possessed of peculiar intelligence and an amiable disposition, was dispatched to Aylesford to receive a sum of nine shillings, the amount of a weekly parish allowance to his father. He was dressed at the time in a "south-wester," with a belcher handkerchief round his neck, blue jacket and waistcoat, brown trousers, and shoes and stockings ; and his father, at his request, lent him a knife, with which he expressed his intention to cut a bow and arrow on his way home. The boy arrived safely at Aylesford, when Mr Cutbath, the relieving officer of the parish, gave him the usual amount of nine shillings. The boy had previously been instructed by his father as to the mode of carrying the money, and the little fellow had shown him how completely and how securely he could conceal it, by putting it into a little bag, which he could carry in the palm of his hand inside a mitten which he wore ; and on this occasion he was observed to place the silver in the customary manner in his hand. He usually reached home at about three o'clock, but this afternoon he did not return. As night advanced

JOHN AMY BIRD BELL

his father became alarmed at his absence; and the next morning he determined to go himself to Aylesford, for the purpose of making inquiries for him. The fact of his having received the money was ascertained; but all search for him proved unavailing, and his parents were left in a most painful state of doubt as to the cause of his sudden disappearance.

It was not until the 11th of May that the real facts of the murder of the unhappy boy were discovered. On that day a man named Izzard was passing through a bypath in a wood situated at a distance of about two miles from Rochester, and about thirty rods from the highroad, when he found the body of the boy lying in a ditch. The mitten was cut from his left hand, and his clothes were disarranged, as if there had been a scuffle. Although the body was so much decomposed as to prevent his being able to discover by what means death had been produced, the remains of blood upon the shirt, coat and neckerchief left no doubt of the dreadful death which the boy had suffered. He had died of a wound which had been inflicted in his throat with a sharp-pointed instrument, the mark of which was still visible, and which could not have been inflicted by the deceased himself.

A diligent search was immediately instituted, for the purpose of endeavouring to find the instrument with which this terrible murder had been committed, and in a short time a common white horn-handled knife was found, corroded with rust, which had every appearance of being the weapon that had been used by the murderer. The discovery of this weapon afforded some clue to the parties implicated in the transaction, and a man named Bell, and his two sons, John Amy Bird Bell and James Bell, respectively of the ages of fourteen and eleven years, were taken into custody. These persons lived in the poorhouse adjoining the spot where the murder was committed; and the information obtained by the constable, by which the knife which had been found was discovered to have belonged to the boy John Bell, afforded conclusive testimony of one at least of them having been concerned in the foul deed.

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An investigation into the circumstances of the murder took place before the magistrates at Rochester, the result of which was that convincing proof was obtained of the implication of the two boys. During this inquiry it became necessary that the body of the deceased should be exhumed—it had been buried immediately after it had been discovered and the coroner's jury had sat—in order that the person of the boy might be searched—an operation which had been previously most unaccountably omitted. When this examination was made, the two younger prisoners were taken to the graveyard for the purpose of observing the effect of the proceeding upon them. The elder boy, John, maintained throughout a sullen silence; but his brother James, on being desired to enter the grave and search the pockets of the clothes of the deceased, which had been buried on his person, cheerfully complied, and brought forth the knife which the father of the unhappy lad had lent him on his setting out for Aylesford. This was the only article found upon him, and robbery, therefore, it was at once seen, had been the object of his murderer.

The prisoners after this underwent another examination before the magistrates; and upon their being again remanded, the younger boy confessed that he and his brother had committed the murder—that his brother had waylaid the deceased in the wood, while he had remained at its outskirts to keep watch. Upon this the evidence of the younger boy was accepted. The father having been discharged from custody, although strong suspicion had been felt of his having been an accessory after the commission of the crime, the prisoner, John Amy Bird Bell, was committed for trial. The statement of the younger boy exhibited a remarkable degree of depravity in the conduct of his brother and himself. He said that they had long contemplated the murder of their wretched victim, as they had learned from him the errand upon which he so frequently travelled from Stroud to Aylesford and back; but various circumstances had prevented the completion of their design until the 4th of March, when it was carried out by John, who afterwards gave him

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one shilling and sixpence as his share of the proceeds of the transaction.

On the way to Maidstone the prisoner acknowledged the truth of his brother's statement, and pointed out a pond where he had washed the blood of his victim off his hands on his way home after the murder. He also pointed to the opening which led to the spot where the murder was committed, and said to the officer : "That's where I killed the poor boy." Then he added : "He is better off than I am now: do not you think he is, sir?"—an observation to which the constable assented.

At the trial the prisoner exhibited the utmost indifference to his fate, and appeared to entertain no fear for the consequences of his guilt. He maintained his firmness throughout a most feeling address of the learned judge, in which he was sentenced to death, but exhibited some emotion when he was informed that a part of the sentence was that his body should be given over to the surgeons to be dissected.

At half-past eleven o'clock on Monday morning the wretched malefactor ceased to exist, and his body was given to the surgeons of Rochester for dissection.

JOHN BISHOP AND THOMAS WILLIAMS

*Notorious Body-Snatchers, who murdered People and sold
their Bodies to Hospitals, and were executed at
Newgate, 5th of December, 1831*

IT was on Saturday, the 5th of November, 1831, that these two men were apprehended for the crime of which they were subsequently found guilty, and for which they were executed. They were immediately conveyed to the station-house of the F division of police, in Covent Garden, and on the same night were taken into custody before Mr Minshull, the sitting magistrate at Bow Street police office. Bishop and Williams, however, were not the only persons then charged: James May and James Shields were also

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taken into custody, an allegation of suspicion of murder having been made against them all generally. At this period little more than a mere declaration that they were suspected to have been concerned in the murder of a boy about fourteen years of age, whose body they had offered for sale at King's College, was made, and the prisoners were remanded to await the result of the inquest, which was directed to be held upon the body of the deceased.

On Tuesday, the 8th of November, a coroner's jury sat upon the remains of the unfortunate boy, the prisoners being in attendance to hear the evidence adduced.

The first witness called was William Hill, the porter at the dissecting-room of King's College. He stated that at about a quarter before twelve on the previous Saturday, the 5th of November, the bell of the dissecting-room having been rung, he went to the door, and found the prisoners Bishop and May there. He had known them both before, from their having supplied the College with subjects for dissection. May asked him whether he "wanted anything," which, in the language of such persons, was intended to convey an inquiry as to whether he wanted to buy a subject. He answered that he did not want anything particularly, but inquired what they had. The reply was: "A male subject." He asked of what size he was; and the prisoner said he was a boy, about fourteen years old, and he wanted twelve guineas. He told them he was sure that that price would not be given, for the school did not want a subject; but he added that if they would wait he would acquaint Mr Partridge, the anatomical demonstrator, with their business. He accordingly informed Mr Partridge that the prisoners were there, and that gentleman said he would see them; he, in consequence, directed them to proceed to a particular part of the building, which was appropriated to the use of such persons. He met them there, and they were soon joined by Mr Partridge, who refused to give them the price they demanded. May then said that he should have the body for ten guineas; but this was still declared to be too much, and Mr Partridge went away.

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The prisoners again pressed the witness to purchase the subject ; and he, at their request, went after Mr Partridge to ascertain the greatest amount he would pay. Nine guineas was the sum fixed, and he returned and acquainted the prisoners with the determination which had been expressed to give no more than that amount. May said that he would be d—d if it should come in at less than ten guineas ; but, as he was going out at the door, Bishop took witness aside and said : “ Never mind May, he is drunk ; it shall come in at nine guineas in the course of half-an-hour.”

They then went away ; but at about a quarter past two in the afternoon they returned with Williams and Shields, the latter carrying a hamper. May and Bishop carried the hamper into an inner room. When it was opened a sack was found inside, which contained the body. May, who was even more tipsy than he had been before, now took out the sack, turned it up and threw the body carelessly on the ground. He remarked that it was “ a good one ” ; to which witness assented ; but he observed that the body was particularly fresh, and, in consequence of some other appearances which presented themselves, he went to Mr Partridge. Before he went he asked the prisoners what the boy had died of ; May answered that that was no business of theirs, or his either. He directed them to wait in the adjoining room until his return. He acquainted Mr Partridge with his suspicions, and that gentleman, in consequence, accompanied him to the room to look at the body. He thought that the body was more rigid than was usual, and it appeared to him as if it had not been buried. The left hand was turned towards the head, and the fingers were firmly clenched ; there was also a cut on the forehead, from which blood appeared to have issued upon the chest. Mr Partridge concurred with him in thinking that there were some suspicious appearances about the body, and went away. Other gentlemen, students at the college, came, soon after, and were of the same opinion. Witness inquired of the prisoners how the cut came in the forehead of the deceased ; and Bishop answered that May had done it, when he had thrown the

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body on the ground. When Mr Partridge returned he showed the prisoners a fifty-pound note, which he said he would have to get changed before he could pay them. Bishop suggested that he should give them what money he had, and they would call again on the following Monday for the remainder of the price; but this was objected to, and Mr Partridge again went away. In about a quarter of an hour Mr Mayo, the professor of anatomy at the college, came into the room with Mr Rogers, the inspector of police, and some constables, and the prisoners were immediately given into custody. The body was then delivered to the police, together with the hamper and sack; and they, with the prisoners, were taken to the station-house.

Mr Richard Partridge was called, and he stated that he was demonstrator of anatomy at King's College. It was his opinion that the marks of internal violence which he had found were sufficient to produce death. He believed that the appearances of internal violence to the spinal marrow had been caused by a blow, or some other species of violence inflicted on the back of the neck.

Mr George Beaman, the surgeon to the parish of St Paul, Covent Garden, had also examined the body, and his opinion corresponded with that expressed by Mr Partridge. His belief was that the deceased had died within thirty-six hours of the time when he first saw it on the Saturday; and he was also of opinion that the deceased had not died a natural death.

Other evidence having been given, the jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder against some person or persons unknown"; but expressed their strong belief that the prisoners, Bishop, Williams and May, had been concerned in the transaction.

It was impossible that an inquiry which had hitherto terminated so unsatisfactorily should cease here, and Mr Minshull, with that determination by which his conduct as a magistrate was always characterised, immediately took upon himself the arduous task of conducting the investigation to its close. The prisoners were then remanded,

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and on Friday, the 18th of the month, they were again brought up.

Witnesses were then examined whose testimony traced the prisoners Bishop, Williams and May to a noted house-of-call for body-snatchers—the Fortune of War public-house, in Smithfield—on the 4th of November, where they appeared to be in earnest conversation. They went in and out repeatedly all that day; and at night May was seen with a number of human teeth in a hand-kerchief, to which some portion of the flesh of the gum still adhered, upon which he poured water, in order to clean them. The next morning Shields joined them, and Bishop was heard endeavouring to induce him to go to St Bartholomew's Hospital for a hamper, which he refused to do, in consequence of which Bishop went and fetched it himself. They then went away, and were not again seen.

Upon the delivery of this evidence the examination concluded, and the prisoners were again remanded.

On the following day the police proceeded to Nova Scotia Gardens, and a new and more searching investigation of the prisoners' house and premises took place. There, after a minute investigation, they made discoveries which filled them with horror, and confirmed, by the most positive evidence, the suspicions which had been excited of the murderous traffic which had been carried on. About five yards from Bishop's back door they found a blue jacket, black trousers and little shirt. About a yard farther on they found a blue short coat, a pair of grey trousers with braces on and a piece of a comb in the pocket, a striped waistcoat, the back of the collar of which was blood-stained, and a shirt torn down the centre.

Afterwards articles of a woman's clothing were found buried in the garden, which were eventually proved to have belonged to a woman named Frances Pigburn, another victim to the designs of these atrocious conspirators.

Mr Minshull said no doubt could exist that the clothes were the same which had been worn by Frances Pigburn,

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and he feared there was little doubt that the poor woman had been murdered. It was inferred that the body had been sold for the purposes of dissection, and the clothes buried to avoid detection. In all probability the poor creature had been searching for lodgings, was met by some of the infernal gang, and was lured into their den and there destroyed. To what extent these horrors had been committed it was impossible to imagine.

A further warrant for the detention of Bishop, May and Williams upon this fresh charge was then made out, and Mr Thomas, police superintendent, was requested to make every possible inquiry among the hospitals and dissecting-rooms in the metropolis, to ascertain, if possible, whether any body answering the description of Mrs Pigburn had been offered for sale by any of the prisoners within the last six weeks.

On Friday, the 2nd of December, 1831, the prisoners Bishop, May and Williams were placed at the bar of the Old Bailey to take their trial upon the charge of murder preferred against them. At ten o'clock Chief Justice Tindal, Mr Justice Littledale and Mr Baron Vaughan took their seats upon the bench, the remaining portion of which was instantly occupied by members of the nobility and persons of distinction, amongst whom was his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex.

Evidence having been given, the Chief Justice summed up, and the jury returned as their verdict that John Bishop, Thomas Williams and James May were severally guilty of murder.

The verdict was received in court with becoming silence; but the moment it was conveyed to the immense multitude assembled outside they evinced their satisfaction at the result by loud and long-continued cheering and clapping of hands. To such an extent was this expression of the popular feeling carried that the windows of the court were obliged to be closed, in order that the voice of the recorder might be heard passing sentence of death.

On Sunday the usual sermon was preached in the jail

JOHN BISHOP AND THOMAS WILLIAMS

chapel, and after that the prisoners Bishop and Williams were placed in the same cell, where they were visited by the ordinary and under-sheriffs, to whom they made the following confessions :—

NEWGATE, December 4, 1831.

I, John Bishop, do hereby declare and confess that the boy supposed to be the Italian boy was a Lincolnshire boy. I and Williams took him to my house about half-past ten o'clock on Thursday night, the 3rd of November, from the Bell, in Smithfield. We lighted a candle, and gave the boy some bread and cheese; and after he had eaten, we gave him a cup full of rum, with about half a small phial of laudanum in it. I had bought the rum the same evening in Smithfield, and the laudanum also in small quantities at different shops. There was no water or other liquid put into the cup with the rum and laudanum. The boy drank the contents of the cup directly, in two draughts, and afterwards a little beer. In about ten minutes he fell asleep in the chair on which he sat, and I removed him from the chair to the floor and laid him on his side. We then went out and left him there. We had a quatern of gin and a pint of beer at the Feathers, near Shoreditch church, and then went home again, having been away from the boy about twenty minutes. We found him asleep as we had left him. We took him directly, asleep and insensible, into the garden, and tied a cord to his feet, to enable us to pull him up by; and I then took him in my arms and let him slide from them headlong into the well in the garden; whilst Williams held the cord to prevent the boy going altogether too low in the well. He was nearly wholly in the water, his feet being just above the surface. Williams fastened the other end of the cord round the paling, to prevent the body getting beyond our reach. The boy struggled a little with his arms and legs in the water, and the water bubbled a minute. We waited till these symptoms were passed, and then went indoors, and afterwards I think we went out and walked down Shoreditch to occupy the time; and in three-quarters of an hour we returned, and took him

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out of the well, by pulling him by the cord attached to his feet. We undressed him in the paved yard, rolled his clothes up, and buried them where they were found by the witness who produced them. We carried the boy into the wash-house, laid him on the floor, and covered him over with a bag.

The statement then detailed their subsequent movements, and the attempts they made to sell the body for dissecting purposes. May, however, knew nothing of the murder.

In another confession Bishop wrote :

"I also confess that I and Williams were concerned in the murder of a female, whom I believe to have been since discovered to be Frances Pigburn, on or about the 9th of October last. I and Williams saw her sitting about eleven or twelve o'clock at night on the step of a door in Shoreditch, near the church. She had a child, four or five years old, with her on her lap. I asked why she was sitting there. She said she had no home to go to, for her landlord had turned her out into the street. I told her she might go home with us and sit by the fire all night. She said she would go with us, and walked with us to my house, in Nova Scotia Gardens, carrying her child with her. When we got there we found the family in bed, and we took the woman in, and lighted a fire, by which we all sat down together. I went out for beer, and we all partook of beer and rum (I had brought the rum from Smithfield in my pocket). The woman and her child lay down on some dirty linen on the floor, and I and Williams went to bed. About six o'clock next morning I and Williams told her to go away, and to meet us at the London Apprentice, in Old Street Road, at one o'clock ; this was before our families were up. She met us again at one o'clock at the London Apprentice without her child ; we gave her some halfpence and beer, and desired her to meet us again at ten o'clock at night at the same place. After this we bought rum and laudanum at different places, and at ten o'clock we met the woman again at the London Apprentice ; she had no child with her. We

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drank three pints of beer between us, and stayed there about an hour. We then walked to Nova Scotia Gardens, and Williams and I led her into No. 2, an empty house, adjoining my house. We had no light. Williams stepped out into the garden with the rum and laudanum, which I had handed to him ; he there mixed them together in a half-pint bottle, and came into the house to me and the woman, and we gave her the bottle to drink. She drank the whole in two or three draughts. There was a quartern of rum and about half a phial of laudanum. She sat down on the step between the two rooms in the house, and went off to sleep in about ten minutes. She was falling back, when I caught her to save her fall, and laid her back on the floor. Then Williams and I went to a public-house, got something to drink, and in about half-an-hour came back to the woman. We took off her cloak, tied a cord to her feet, carried her to the well in the garden, and thrust her into it headlong. She struggled very little afterwards, and the water bubbled a little at the top. We fastened the cord to the palings, to prevent her going down beyond our reach, and left her, and took a walk to Shoreditch and back in about half-an-hour. We left the woman in the well this length of time that the rum and laudanum might run out of the body at the mouth. On our return we took her out of the well, cut off her clothes, carried the body into the wash-house of my own house, where we doubled it up and put it into a hair-box, which we corded, and left it there. Later we took it to St Thomas's Hospital, where I saw Mr South's footman, and sent him upstairs to Mr South to ask if he wanted a subject. The servant brought me word that his master wanted one, but could not give an answer until the next day, as he had not time to look at it. I then went to Mr Appleton, at Mr Grainger's, and agreed to sell it to him for eight guineas ; and afterwards I fetched it from St Thomas's Hospital and took it to Mr Appleton, who paid me five pounds then, and the rest on the following Monday.

" I also confess the murder of a boy, who told us his name was Cunningham. It was a fortnight after the murder of

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the woman. I and Williams found him sleeping, about eleven or twelve o'clock at night, on Friday, the 21st of October, as I think, under some rubbish in the pig-market at Smithfield. Williams woke him and asked him to come along with him (Williams), and the boy walked with Williams and me to my house in Nova Scotia Gardens. We took him into my house and gave him some warm beer sweetened with sugar, with rum and laudanum in it. He drank two or three cups full, and then fell asleep in a little chair belonging to one of my children. We laid him on the floor and then went out for a little while and got something to drink, and then returned, carried the boy to the well, and threw him into it in the same way as we had served the other boy and the woman. He died instantly in the well, and we left him there a little while to give time for the mixture we had given him to run out of his body. We then took the body from the well, tore off the clothes in the garden, and buried them there. The body we carried into the wash-house and put it into the same box, and left it there till the next evening, when we got a porter to carry it with us to St Bartholomew's Hospital, where I sold it to Mr Smith for eight guineas. This boy was about ten or eleven years old ; he said his mother lived in Kent Street, and that he had not been home for a twelvemonth and better. I solemnly declare that these are all the murders in which I have been engaged, or that I know anything of ; that I and Williams were alone concerned in these, and that no other person whatever knew anything about either of them ; and that I do not know whether there are others who practise the same mode of getting bodies for sale. I know nothing of any Italian boy, and was never concerned in or knew of the murder of such a boy. I have followed the course of obtaining a livelihood as a body-snatcher for twelve years, and have obtained and sold, I think, from five hundred to a thousand bodies ; but I declare before God that they were all obtained after death, and that, with the above exceptions, I am ignorant of any murder for that or any other purpose."

JOHN HOLLOWAY

It was not until subsequent to the delivery of these statements that May was acquainted with the fact that the execution of his sentence had been respited during his Majesty's pleasure.

Bishop and Williams were executed outside Newgate in the presence of thirty thousand spectators, who set up a shout of exultation that was prolonged for several minutes. The bodies were removed the same night, Bishop to the King's College, and Williams to the Theatre of Anatomy, in Windmill Street, Haymarket, to be dissected. They were publicly exhibited on Tuesday and Wednesday, at both places, when immense crowds of persons were admitted to see their remains.

JOHN HOLLOWAY

Executed on 16th of December, 1831, for the Murder of his Wife, whose Dismembered Body was discovered amid Rustic Surroundings

THIS horrible murder, almost unparalleled in atrocity, was discovered on Saturday, the 13th of August, 1831. On Friday, the 12th of the month, two men, named Maskell and Gillam, farm labourers, were passing through Rottingdean, near Preston, Brighton, when, on their arrival at a nook called the Hole-in-the-Wall, they fancied they perceived that the earth had been disturbed. They pushed away some of the mould with a stick and observed a piece of red printed cotton protruding, but at the time they took no particular notice of the occurrence. On their return home, however, to their respective families, they mentioned what they had seen, and Gillam's wife remarked that it was possible a child might be buried there. So Elphick, the officer of the village of Preston, was summoned to their assistance. On his arrival, Gillam procured a spade, for the purpose of digging round the suspected spot, and at length, at a distance of about eighteen inches only from the surface, a human thigh was found; immediately afterwards

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another thigh was dug up, and then a large bundle, wrapped in a dress made of the same description of cotton as that first seen, was produced. This bundle contained the trunk of a human body, but the head and arms were wanting. The body was still clothed in the stays, chemise and petticoats ; and the gown, which had first attracted attention, appeared to have been loosely wrapped over it, and an effort made to tie it round with a cord, which presented the appearance of a petticoat string.

Crowds of persons thronged to the spot, and amongst them was a Mrs Bishop, the wife of a labourer at Brighton, who declared that the body was that of her sister.

An investigation was now immediately set on foot, which resulted in a conviction that the husband of the deceased, John Holloway, a labourer employed on the Chain Pier at Brighton, had murdered her, and had thus disposed of her remains, in order to conceal the circumstance of her death. During the six years which intervened between the marriage and the death of the unfortunate woman she and her husband had scarcely lived together for two consecutive months ; and at length Holloway, who had quitted the Preventive Service in the year 1829, obtained employment on the Chain Pier, which was then in the course of construction, and took a woman, named Ann Kennard, to live with him as his wife. Mrs Holloway was then residing with her friends. Five weeks before the discovery of the murder, at which time Mrs Holloway was living with a Mrs Symonds, at No. 4 Cavendish Place, North Brighton, Holloway commenced his diabolical scheme for her murder. He called upon her, and expressed a wish that their former animosities should be forgotten, and that they should again live together as they had done when they were first married. The woman, who had throughout expressed the fondest affection for him, listened to his proposals, and it was arranged that he should fetch her on a certain day, to conduct her to lodgings which he had taken for her, the locality of which, however, he did not describe. On Thursday, the 14th of July, Holloway called for his wife at Mrs Symonds's ; but he first took away

JOHN HOLLOWAY

her boxes, in which she had previously packed her own clothes and her baby-linen. Mrs Holloway expressed some apprehension that he would not come back; but he kept his promise, and returned for her in about an hour, and took her away, attired in a gown similar in pattern to that in which her body was subsequently found wrapped. From that time she was never again seen alive. Steps were at once taken to secure her husband and his paramour, Mrs Kennard. The latter was found first. She was residing at a house in Brighton, and was immediately taken into custody. On the same evening Holloway learned that inquiries had been made for him, and surrendered himself into custody.

The coroner's jury returned a verdict of "wilful murder against John Holloway," and he was committed to Horsham Jail to await his trial.

A further search of the neighbourhood of Rottingdean resulted in the discovery of the missing head and legs, and on the following Saturday all doubts which might have been entertained of the guilt of Holloway were set at rest by his confession of his having committed the murder.

At his trial, which took place at Lewes, on Wednesday, the 14th of December, 1831, he was remarkable for the brutality of his demeanour. When he was arraigned his manner was such as to be fully in accordance with the atrocious nature of his crime. The court was excessively crowded, and when the name of the prisoner was called by the Clerk of the Arraigns a thrill of horror ran through the assembled crowd, which was audibly expressed in a murmur which gave much solemnity to the scene.

After hearing the evidence, the jury immediately returned a verdict of guilty, and the learned judge sentenced the prisoner to be executed on the following Friday, and directed his body to be given up to be anatomised. He mounted the scaffold on Friday, 16th of December, 1831, with a firm step. There was a strong expression of disgust among the spectators. He fell on his knees and prayed for a short time, after which the rope was placed round his neck and

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the cap drawn over his eyes. He then advanced to the front of the scaffold, and in a firm voice spoke as follows :—

“ Now, my dear friends, I need not tell you that sin has brought me to this untimely end. As sin has brought me to this untimely end, I would entreat you to be aware that there is not one among you who, if he follows a life of sin and folly, may not be brought to the same condition ; for when you trifle with sin, you know not where it will end. I know I suffer justly : I have spilt innocent blood ; but, however deep my guilt, I hope in the mercy of that God who has said to the penitent, ‘ All your sins and blasphemies shall be forgiven you.’ Therefore turn from your sins, and the Lord will forgive you.”

After he had finished his speech he retired back on the platform, and the drop fell. The struggles of the culprit continued for some minutes.

HENRY MACNAMARA

Hotel Jewel Thief, who was transported for committing several Robberies, 21st of May, 1832

HENRY MACNAMARA was taken into custody on the morning of Sunday, the 29th of April, 1832, at the New Hummums Hotel, Covent Garden, on a charge of robbery, committed under somewhat remarkable circumstances ; and on the following day he underwent an examination at Bow Street, before the sitting magistrate.

The prisoner had gone to the New Hummums on the previous Saturday night, and had requested to be accommodated with a bed. His appearance was such as to lead to a supposition that he was a person of respectability, and there was no hesitation in complying with his desire. His luggage, which consisted only of a carpet-bag, was conveyed to the apartment assigned to his use, and when he had partaken of a handsome supper he retired to rest. The New Hummums was a hotel much resorted to by single gentlemen, or casual visitors to the metropolis ; and on the night

HENRY MACNAMARA

in question its accommodation was as much in request as usual. Major Hampton Lewis occupied a sleeping apartment on the floor beneath that in which the prisoner's room was situated ; and in the same corridor were other four bedchambers, all of which were also in use. In the middle of the night Major Lewis was suddenly awakened by hearing some person in his apartment, and on looking up he saw a man, attired only in his shirt and trousers, making his way towards the door, carrying off his gold watch, chain and seals, and also his purse. He jumped up and pursued the intruder, but did not succeed in catching him until he had reached the passage, when he seized him by the shirt and braces. The fellow struggled hard and succeeded in extricating himself, and ran off upstairs ; but the noise had by this time alarmed the other inmates of the house, and instant search was made for the thief. Every room was examined ; and at last the constables, who by this time had been called in, arrived at that to which the prisoner had been conducted. They found him in bed ; but when they called him up they perceived that he still had his trousers on, and that his braces and shirt were torn. The detached remnants of these articles were found, on examination, outside the door of Major Lewis's room, having evidently been torn off in the scuffle ; and the watch and purse of that gentleman were also discovered on the stairs leading to the corridor in which the prisoner's apartment was situated. This was a chain of circumstances so conclusive, as denoting the guilt of the prisoner, that he was carried off in custody to the station-house. Afterwards other four gentlemen, who slept in the apartments adjoining that of Major Lewis, discovered that they too had been robbed. One gentleman missed a shirt-pin ; another some English and French money, amounting to about three pounds, fifteen shillings ; a third a loaded pistol, which he carried for his protection, and his purse, containing a considerable sum in gold and notes ; while the rings and purse of the fourth had been purloined from his dressing-table. In a room opposite to that which the prisoner had occupied the whole of these

Many other cases were, at subsequent examinations, brought against the prisoner, who was recognised as having been guilty of almost innumerable offences within a very short period; and he was also identified by one of the keepers of Maidstone Jail as having made his escape from that prison, where he had been sentenced to be confined for three months as a pickpocket.

On Monday, the 21st of May, the prisoner was tried at the Old Bailey upon the charges preferred against him, and verdicts of guilty were returned. The crimes which he had committed rendered him liable to capital punishment; but the ends of justice, it was felt, would be amply satisfied by the permanent removal of this offender from the scenes of his former exploits, and from the opportunities of renewing his depredations, and consequently he was sentenced to transportation.

DENNIS COLLINS

Convicted of High Treason, in throwing a Stone at King William IV. at Ascot Races, 19th of June, 1832

THIS extraordinary attack on the person of his Majesty took place at Ascot Races. The assault originated in nothing more than an insane desire on the part of the person who was guilty of it to vent his anger on the King for a supposed injury inflicted on him in the forfeiture of a pension which had been granted to him for past services in the navy.

It was on Thursday, the 19th of June, 1832, that this attack was made. His Majesty, accompanied by his consort, had just reached the grand stand on the race-course, and had advanced to the front window to acknowledge the respectful greetings of his people, when two stones, thrown in

DENNIS COLLINS

quick succession after each other, were seen to fly in the direction of the window at which the Royal party was stationed. The first stone rebounded from the building to the ground below, but the second entered the open window and struck his Majesty a somewhat severe blow on the front of the head. An instant alarm was raised, and a thousand arms were extended to seize the individual by whom the attack was made, whose act was attributed to an intention far more dangerous than it eventually appeared the unfortunate man had had. His Majesty was much agitated, and retired to the inner part of the room, apparently in alarm lest any further violence should be attempted, and was observed to express considerable fear lest her Majesty, or any of the ladies of the suite, might receive injury; but in a few moments he regained his self-possession and presented himself at the window, to assure the public of his safety. His Majesty had received only a slight injury, owing to the stone having fallen upon his hat; and the Royal party appeared perfectly reassured long before the alarm created in the minds of those present had subsided, and they had become convinced that the attack was not the subject of some deep-laid and villainous plot.

The wretched author of the mischief had been immediately secured, and he was now carried before Sir F. A. Roe, the chief magistrate of Westminster, who was always in attendance upon his Majesty upon such occasions, and who held a species of court in a room under the grand stand. Gardiner, the Bow Street officer, had the prisoner in charge, and conducted him to the presence of the magistrate. In a few moments the room where the examination was held was crowded with persons in attendance on his Majesty, or attached to the Royal suite, who were anxious to learn the particulars of this extraordinary act, as well as to ascertain the station and occupation of the assailant of the King.

The prisoner was found to be old and decrepit; he had a wooden leg, and was wearing the tattered garb of a sailor. He gave his name as Dennis Collins, and surveyed the assembled throng with a calm composure, while, however, there

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appeared to be considerable incoherence in the expressions which he occasionally let fall, produced apparently by the confusion in which he was involved, consequential upon the somewhat rough treatment which he had received from the mob before he had reached the custody of the police officers. The circumstances which have been already detailed were now proved in evidence; and witnesses were examined who had seen the prisoner on the race-course during the morning and had remarked his demeanour. The old man was considerably below middle height, and the general aspect which he presented was the reverse of pleasing, on account of the want of cleanliness of his person. His countenance was by no means ill-favoured, and a bright sparkling eye appeared to lend to it an expression of considerable intelligence. He made no statement before the magistrates, and was eventually committed to Reading Jail for re-examination on the following Wednesday.

On that day the necessary witnesses to his crime were called, and their depositions formally taken, and the prisoner was then called upon for his defence. His address to the magistrates was highly characteristic of the old sailor, a station to which it appeared the prisoner was entitled. He said : "I own myself in a great fault for throwing these stones at his Majesty. I was in Greenwich Hospital on the 16th of December last, as an in-pensioner. I had been there eighteen months. The ward-keeper was sweeping the place, and I told him he had no business to sweep it more than once a day ; the boatswain's mate abused me, and I returned it. A complaint was then made to Sir Richard Keats (the governor), and I was expelled for life. I petitioned to the Lords of the Admiralty to have the pension which I had before I went into the hospital restored to me. I am entitled to that pension by an Act passed in the reign of George IV., which entitles a pensioner to have the same pension which he had before he became an in-pensioner, unless he struck an officer, or committed felony, or did anything of the kind, which I did no such thing. On the 19th of last April I petitioned the King to have my pension restored. He

DENNIS COLLINS

answered by sending the petition to the Lords of the Admiralty, and Mr Barrow, the secretary, sent a letter to me at a public-house, the Admiral Duncan, with the same answer the King gave. The answer was that his Majesty could do nothing for me. This was partly in writing and partly in print. I had neither workhouse nor overseer to apply to, and had not broke my fast for three days ; mere distress drove me to it. His Majesty never did me an injury, and I am exceedingly sorry I threw a stone or anything else at his Majesty. On the 17th of the present month I went to Admiral Rowley's ; he swore at me and kicked me. I can only say I am very sorry for what I have done, and must suffer the law. They had no right to take my pension from me, to which I was entitled by Act of Parliament."

This was all the wretched man said, and he was then fully committed for trial in the customary form, upon the charge of high treason.

His trial took place at Abingdon, on Wednesday, the 22nd of August, when he was arraigned upon an indictment which charged him with assaulting his Majesty, with intent to kill and murder him, with intent to maim and disable him, and with intent to do him some grievous bodily harm. A verdict of guilty upon the last count was returned.

The sentence awarded by the law to the offence of high treason was immediately passed, and the prisoner was ordered to be drawn and quartered, in obedience to the ancient and long-existing practice.

It was directly known that a sentence so severe would not be carried into full effect upon a man whose only crime appeared to have been insanity, although there was no distinct evidence by which this supposition could be proved ; and on the following Friday a respite was received at Abingdon Jail, by which the punishment of death was removed in the case of the old convict.

Collins, at the time of his trial, was upwards of seventy years of age, and he had served in the navy for many years. His gallant conduct in an action was the cause of his losing his leg, and he was compelled to quit the service.

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He subsequently exerted himself to procure his admission to Greenwich Hospital, and eventually succeeded; but he was expelled for the misconduct previously related. From that time he appears to have supported himself by begging, and he was well known at the various fairs and race-courses, which he had previously been in the habit of frequenting in a similar character.

His sentence was eventually commuted to transportation for life, and he was sent from this country to Van Diemen's Land. A short residence in that colony ended his days. He died at Port Philip in the spring of the year 1834.

JONATHAN SMITHERS

Executed 9th of July, 1832, for setting fire to his Shop in Oxford Street, and causing the Death of Three People

ON Monday morning, the 28th of May, 1832, a fire broke out in the lower part of the house, No. 398 Oxford Street, in the occupation of Mr Jonathan Smithers, a tobacconist, which was attended with very serious consequences. At about six o'clock the police ascertained the existence of a conflagration in the lower part of the house, by the sudden issue of a large quantity of smoke and flame from the shop and house doors, and from the fanlight over the latter, and proceeded immediately to the spot, where they found Mr Smithers endeavouring to make his escape into the street by means of the area, which communicated with the kitchen. All his efforts to gain the footway, and those of the people to force the railings of the area, however, proved unavailing, and Mr Smithers was at length compelled to retire through the kitchen. He made his way up the stairs, which were on fire, and succeeded in reaching the shop, from which he rushed into the street, much burned about his face and hands, and with his clothes on fire in many places. The sudden admission of air to the house through the shop door tended to increase the fury of the flames; and before any alarm could be conveyed to the

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inmates, who were asleep within, nearly the whole of the lower part of the premises was on fire. Mr Smithers was immediately conveyed to the Middlesex Hospital, in order that the wounds which he had received might be dressed; and almost before he had quitted the spot the lodgers and other remaining occupants of the house had been made acquainted with their dangerous situation. Their first impulse was to escape by the stairs; but this they found to be utterly impracticable; and the scene which soon presented itself to the bystanders in the street was of the most heart-rending description. At almost every window were to be seen persons, male and female, bewailing their dreadful situation, and imploring aid with uplifted hands. The servant-girl at the third-floor window made signs that she would throw herself into the street, but was entreated to endeavour to descend to a lower floor before she made so hazardous an attempt to save her life. The cries which were addressed to her prevailed, and she soon appeared at the second-floor front room, having experienced considerable difficulty in making her way down the staircase. Several men then ranged themselves under the window to catch her in her descent; and the girl, exerting her courage, presently found strength of mind to throw herself out, and alighted safely in the arms of one of those below. The man was knocked down and considerably hurt, but the girl walked away comparatively uninjured.

But the worst part is yet to be related. The second floor of the house was occupied by an elderly lady, named Twamley, and her family, consisting of two daughters, Eliza and Caroline, an orphan boy about eleven years of age, named Farengo, the nephew of the young ladies, and a Miss Thomasin, their niece. When this family became sensible of their danger, all hopes of their escape by the staircase had vanished, and they ran from window to window in a state of mind which bordered on distraction. Miss Eliza Twamley held the boy in her arms, and appeared more alarmed for his safety than her own. Terror-stricken, she remained at the window, unable to adopt any decisive course, until at

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length the flames caught what clothes she had on. The boy seized hold of the window, but was precipitated to the ground on his head ; his aunt at the same moment appeared to be suffocated by the smoke, and fell back immediately under the window, a prey to the flames. Mrs Twamley, who it appears was seventy years of age, was in the last stage of chronic asthma, and unable to get out of bed. Her daughter Caroline heroically endeavoured to save her from the impending danger ; she seized her in her arms, with strength increased by the frightful nature of her position, raised her from the bed, and bore her through the window to some leads at the rear of the house, from which she hoped to be able to escape, or at which she thought they might remain until the flames should be extinguished. Her position was seen by some of the neighbours who lived at the back, and they called to her to beware of an abyss which lay in her path, and which separated the leads of Smithers's house from others at the rear of some other premises, and that they would rescue her from her perilous situation. A ladder was procured, and raised against the place where she stood ; but before efficient aid could be rendered her, overcome by fright, she dropped to the leads below, with her mother in her arms. The distance which they fell was from twelve to fourteen feet, and both ladies were materially injured. Mrs Twamley was immediately conveyed to a place of safety, where medical aid was procured ; but death put an end to her sufferings after a period of two hours. Miss Twamley also received such medical assistance as her injuries required.

On the following day, Tuesday, a coroner's inquest was held on the body of Miss Eliza Twamley ; and in the course of the inquiry disclosures were made which tended to show that the house had been wilfully set on fire, and that Mr Smithers was the person to whom suspicion of guilt of this diabolical act attached. About ten days previous to the fire he had purchased two sackfuls of shavings, and these had been deposited in a vaulted cellar at the back of the house, with a quantity of old baskets and boxes, and other rubbish of the same description. On the day after the fire a minute

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examination of the premises was made by Mr Abrahams, a surveyor. He ascertained that the conflagration had originated at the bottom of the kitchen stairs, where the remains of burned shavings were distinctly perceptible. In the back vaults, adjoining the kitchen, there were even stronger proofs. A species of devil, formed of gunpowder pressed into a card, was found communicated by a train to a heap of shavings at one end and to a mass of easily ignitable rubbish at the other. Fire had been communicated to the shavings, which were placed upon a wooden shelf or dresser ; but in consequence of the interposition of a piece of greased paper, which had been placed among them apparently with a view to increasing the volume of flame, but which, instead, had had the effect of extinguishing it altogether, the train of powder had not ignited, and the whole remained, affording distinct evidence of the act of incendiarism.

A verdict of wilful murder was returned by the coroner's jury, in the case of Miss Twamley, against Mr Smithers. At an inquest held on the body of Mrs Twamley a verdict was returned that she had died from fright ; but the boy Farengo subsequently also died from the injuries which he had received, and in this case also a verdict of wilful murder was returned. On Tuesday, the 12th of June, Smithers was removed to Newgate, to await his trial upon the charge for which he was already in custody, from Middlesex Hospital, where he had been confined by the injuries which he had received.

On Friday, the 6th of July, he was put upon his trial upon an indictment which charged him with the murder of Miss Eliza Twamley, and of the boy, Charles Richard Napoleon Farengo. After a lengthy inquiry a verdict of guilty was returned at two o'clock in the morning. Sentence of death was immediately pronounced upon the wretched man, and he was ordered for execution on the following Monday.

Smithers had carried on business for a considerable period in the shop in Oxford Street. He was insured for nearly seven hundred pounds, which may in some degree have accounted for his being guilty of the diabolical crime of

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which he was convicted. Miss Twamley, the victim of his foul machinations, had been a dancer at Covent Garden Theatre, and was a fine young woman. Her nephew, who was also killed, was the son of a deceased married sister. The prosecution of Smithers was carried on at the expense of the parish of St Ann, Westminster. His execution took place on Monday, the 9th of July, 1832.

JAMES COOK

*Executed 10th of August, 1832, for the Murder of Mr Paas,
whose Remains he attempted to destroy by Fire*

MR PAAS was a respectable tradesman, and carried on business, at No. 44 High Holborn, London, as a manufacturer of the brass instruments used by bookbinders. Cook, his murderer, was a bookbinder at Leicester. Mr Paas was in the habit of taking occasional journeys in the way of business, and in the course of his travels Cook became his customer, and ordered goods from him to the extent of about twenty-five pounds. Cook at this time was twenty-one years of age, and he had only recently entered upon the business of his deceased master, in a small yard leading out of Wellington Street, Leicester, upon his own account. In the month of May, 1832, the usual period of credit had expired, and Mr Paas wrote to Cook, saying that he should visit Leicester in a few days, when he hoped to receive the amount of his bill. On Wednesday, the 30th of May, Mr Paas accordingly arrived in Leicester, and put up at the Stag and Pheasant Inn. In the afternoon he quitted that house and proceeded upon his rounds, for the purpose of collecting the accounts due to him in the town. He called at several places, and amongst others at the house of Cook. After he had left there he was seen by one of his customers, of whom he made inquiries as to Cook's solvency, and whom he informed that he had already called upon him to pay an account, and that he had been requested to call again in the evening. Mr Paas was not seen alive again after this; and the result

JAMES COOK

showed that he had been wilfully and most diabolically murdered by his customer and debtor.

The circumstances which attended the discovery of the murder were of an extraordinary and interesting nature. The workshop which Cook occupied was situated over a cow-house, in the occupation of a Mr Sawbridge, a milkman. On the evening of Wednesday, the 30th of May, a very large fire was observed to be blazing in his workshop ; but as considerable heat was known to be occasionally necessary for purposes of trade, no notice was taken of the occurrence. About eight o'clock Cook visited the Flying Horse, a beer-shop in the immediate neighbourhood of his workroom. He called for some drink, and played a game of skittles with an undisturbed aspect, and then requested change of a sovereign. The landlord, Mr Nokes, produced the coin necessary, and Cook, on giving him the sovereign, took from his pocket a silk purse containing money to a very considerable amount in gold, silver and notes. This excited some surprise, but no remark was made, and Cook went away, returning apparently to his workshop. After a short time, however, he went to Mrs Sawbridge and told her that he was going to work during the night in order to finish some articles which he had in hand, and desired her therefore not to be frightened if she should see that he had a fire. At half-past ten o'clock he returned to his workshop, and was let in by Sawbridge. From that hour until half-past four o'clock the next morning nothing was seen of him, although it was evident that he had remained in his room, as he was unable to quit the premises without the knowledge of his landlord. A strong light was observed in his workshop, and he was heard occasionally to move about, both in the house and in the yard ; but although his father went to look for him, and to inquire into the cause of his unexpected absence from home during the night, he made no answer.

On Thursday evening the murder was discovered. At about ten o'clock the appearance of an unusual degree of light in the workshop of Cook attracted observation, and the neighbours had assembled, as fears were expressed that

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the premises had caught fire. The window-blinds were down, and from without no distinct information could be obtained of the existence or non-existence of any conflagration, so an entrance to the building was in consequence determined on. Mr Timson, a broker who resided within two doors, went to the top of the stairs leading to Cook's workshop, burst open the door, and immediately entered that apartment. He found that the fire which had been kindled in the grate was extended far beyond its usual bounds, and a large piece of flesh was burning on the top of it. The flesh was taken off and put on the floor, and then the fire was raked out and extinguished. Cook was sent for, and he declared that the flesh was horseflesh, and that he had bought it for the purpose of feeding a dog; but a surgical examination showed that it was part of a human body.

The non-return of Mr Paas to his inn at once led to a belief that he had fallen a victim to the barbarous machinations of Cook, that he had been murdered, and his remains thus mutilated and consumed. A sensation of horror was created as this idea gained ground, and evidence which confirmed the general impression was soon obtained upon an examination of the premises of the supposed murderer. In the chimney of his workshop was found all that remained unburned or unscorched of the body of the unfortunate Mr Paas. Two thighs and a leg, separated from each other and from the main trunk of the body apparently with great determination by a knife and a saw, were found suspended from a nail by a cord in the chimney, about a yard and a half above the fireplace, evidently only awaiting a favourable opportunity when they too might be consumed, and then all trace of the murder would be destroyed. In the room were also discovered the leg of a pair of black trousers covered with blood, together with a snuff-box, an eyeglass, a pencil-case with the letter "P" engraved on it, and some fragments of cloth much stained with blood. Among the ashes were found the horrible remains of the deceased, in the shape of calcined bones; and there was also discovered a gaiter of the description known to have been worn by Mr Paas.

JAMES COOK

On Sunday, the 3rd of June, an inquest was held upon the remains of the deceased, at the Dog and Gun, in Market Street, and the jury returned a verdict that Mr Paas had been wilfully murdered by James Cook.

A few days sufficed to bring this atrocious malefactor to justice. Cummins, an officer of Leicester, started in pursuit of him, and he succeeded in apprehending him on Tuesday, on the point of joining a vessel just sailing from Liverpool for America.

On Wednesday, the 8th of August, the prisoner was put upon his trial at the Leicester Assizes, charged with wilful murder. The indictment alleged the murder to have been committed in various ways, in order to meet all the circumstances of the case.

The prisoner, when called upon to plead, confessed himself guilty of the offence imputed to him. He declared that he was fully acquainted with the effect of his plea, and declined to withdraw it.

Sentence of death was then immediately pronounced by the presiding judge; and, in order that the heinous nature of the crime of the prisoner should be more especially marked, he ordered that his body be gibbeted in chains after his execution. On the following Friday, the 10th of August, the sentence was carried into effect, the convict being hanged in front of the jail at Leicester.

When the body had hung the usual time it was cut down and conveyed back to the jail, in order that the necessary preparations might be made to carry out that portion of the sentence which directed his remains to be gibbeted in chains. The head was shaved and tarred, to preserve it from the action of the weather; and the cap in which he had suffered was drawn over his face. On Saturday afternoon his body, attired as at the time of his execution, having been firmly fixed in the irons necessary to keep the limbs together, was carried to the place of its intended suspension in Saffron Lane, not far from the Aylestone Toll Gate, a short distance out of the town of Leicester. A gallows, thirty-three feet in height, had been already erected; and the horrible burden

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which it was intended to bear was soon attached to it. The following day, thousands of persons were attracted to the spot, to view this novel but most barbarous exhibition ; and considerable annoyance was felt by persons resident in the neighbourhood of the dreadful scene. Representations were in consequence made to the authorities, and on the following Tuesday morning instructions were received from the Home Office directing the removal of the gibbet, and granting the remission of that portion of the sentence by which this exposure, the remnant only of a barbarous age, was required. These orders were immediately obeyed, and the body was subsequently buried in Leicester.

WILLIAM JOHNSON

Executed at Newgate, 7th of January, 1833, for murdering a Wig Maker's Son, whose Body was found in a Ditch

THE victim of this foul deed was a young man named Benjamin Danby, the son of a respectable tradesman, a forensic-wig maker, in the Temple. Young Danby, at an early age, expressed a passion for a maritime life, and he accordingly went to sea. After making several voyages he returned and found that his father was dead, that the bulk of his property was settled on his sisters, but that an allowance of a guinea per week had been secured to him during his life. Towards the close of the year 1832 he took up his residence at the house of his cousin, a Mr Addington, a baker, who lived at Chase Side, Enfield Chase. On Wednesday afternoon, the 19th of December, 1832, at about four o'clock, he quitted Mr Addington's house for the last time. He took his gun with him, saying he was going shooting, but promised to return at ten o'clock. He was carried back next day a corpse. He had gone to the Three Horse Shoes, where he had met some of his companions. Four persons, named William Johnson, the son of a gardener in the vicinity ; Richard Wagstaff, a baker ; Samuel Cooper, a carter, who was quite a lad, and the son of a labouring man ;

WILLIAM JOHNSON

and Samuel Sleath, or Fare, a person who appeared to have no occupation, were seen in his company. They had been playing at dominoes and drinking together, apparently upon excellent terms. At about a quarter past ten o'clock young Danby declared that he would have to go home; but he had now become somewhat intoxicated, and when he got into the open air he was observed by Mrs Perry, the landlady of the public-house, to stagger. Johnson and Fare said they would see him home; but their manner induced a suspicion in the mind of Wagstaff that they were going to rob him, and he therefore called to young Cooper to come away. Cooper's answer was that he had been with them all the evening, and he meant to "go up there" with them now. Wagstaff then went away in a direction contrary to that taken by Danby and the others.

On the following morning, at half-past five o'clock, a man named Wheeler, a labourer, was passing through a place called Holt White's Lane, about half-a-mile from the Three Horse Shoes, when he observed a dead body in the ditch. He called to a man named Ashley, and they discovered that it was the body of young Danby. His legs were towards the road and his head in the ditch, face downwards; when they turned it over it presented a horrible and ghastly spectacle. The face was cut and slashed in a most dreadful manner; the flesh was scored out, as it were, in five places; and the right whisker was completely cut away, and hung suspended to the jaw by a small piece of skin. In the throat of the murdered man they observed a deep stab, inflicted in the manner practised by a butcher in killing a sheep, the knife having been turned in the wound. They at once communicated the particulars of this horrible discovery to the police of the town, who lost no time in procuring the removal of the body to a neighbouring public-house—the Old Sergeant—and in conveying the dreadful intelligence to Mr Addington.

Inquiries were instantly set on foot, and the circumstances above detailed having been ascertained, Johnson, Fare and Cooper were taken into custody. Cooper afterwards sent

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for one of the constables, and declared that he would tell him all. He then proceeded to detail to him the circumstances which attended the murder, which he said was committed by Johnson.

The coroner's jury returned a verdict that the deceased had been wilfully murdered by Johnson and Cooper, and that Fare had been accessory before the fact.

The prisoners were then committed to Newgate to await their trial. Cooper was also detained in custody to give evidence.

On Friday, the 4th of January, 1833, the prisoners Johnson and Fare were put upon their trial at the Old Bailey. As no further evidence than there had been before the coroner was produced to implicate Fare in the actual murder he was acquitted, and removed from the bar; and Johnson was then called on for his defence. He put in a written statement, commenting upon the prejudice which had been excited against him, and declared that Cooper's hand must have been the one by which the deed was done, for that he and Fare had left the deceased with him at the end of Holt White's Lane on the night of the murder, and had seen no more of either of them afterwards.

The jury retired to deliberate upon their verdict; but after an absence of two hours they declared the prisoner to be guilty. Sentence of death was instantly passed, and the prisoner was executed on the following Monday.

Fare was on a subsequent day put upon his trial for stealing from the deceased the money of which he was known to have been possessed, and a portion of which had been found in the prisoner's pockets on his apprehension. A verdict of guilty was returned, and Fare was sentenced to be transported for fourteen years.

Cooper, the companion in guilt of the two convicts, who had been detained in custody until the end of the sessions, was then discharged.

JOB COX

Convicted in May, 1833, of stealing a Letter, he narrowly escaped Execution, owing to the City Recorder's Blunder

JOB COX was a postman in the service of the General Post Office, and he was charged with abstracting a letter from those entrusted to him for delivery, and appropriating its contents to his own use. On the 18th of March, 1833, a Mr Foreman, of No. 101 Grafton Street, Dublin, sent a letter, containing a ten-pound bank-note, addressed to his brother, Mr H. Foreman, in Queen Street, Clerkenwell, which, however, never reached its destination. Inquiry was made at the Post Office, and Cox was found to have signed a book in the ordinary way as having received the letter, and it was subsequently ascertained that he had paid the same note to Mr Lott, a publican in Lambeth, who had given him change for it. Cox was taken into custody, and at the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, held in the month of May, 1833, he was tried and convicted of the offence imputed to him, and on the 20th of the month he received sentence of death, in obedience to the requisites of the Act of Parliament.

At this time it was the practice of the Recorder of London to report to his Majesty in Council the cases of the various prisoners in custody upon whom sentence of death had been passed. The case of Cox was reported, with others, as usual, and upon the return of the learned recorder to London he caused it to be made known to the prisoner that his execution was directed to take place. The unhappy wretch had looked forward with confidence to the result of the exertions of his friends in his favour, and received this intelligence with deep dismay. He was told to prepare for death, and the reverend ordinary of the jail proceeded to pay to him those attentions usually expected at his hands.

A blunder of a most extraordinary nature, however, was soon discovered to have been made. This discovery is thus described in a newspaper of Sunday, the 23rd of June :

to his Lordship that the paragraph was correct—that the recorder's warrant had been received on Wednesday evening, at half-past six o'clock, at Newgate—that the intelligence had been communicated to the unfortunate culprit, and that notices had been sent to the sheriffs and the other officials. 'What!' said Sir Thomas Denman, 'Cox ordered for execution! Impossible! I was myself one of the Privy Council present when the report was made, and I know that no warrant for the execution of anyone was ordered. Cox was ordered to be placed in solitary confinement, and to be kept to hard labour, previously to his being transported for life, to which penalty the judgment to die was commuted.'

"The under-sheriff repeated the extraordinary information to his Lordship, who instantly requested that he would forthwith apply at the Secretary of State's office, when he would be reassured of the fact, and receive an order in contradiction of the learned recorder's warrant. It is needless to say that the under-sheriff, who was very glad to be the bearer of such good tidings to a poor unhappy fellow-creature, very speedily executed his mission. He found that the correction of Sir Thomas Denman was accurate, according to Mr Capper's books, in which the allotted punishment was regularly entered; and Lord Melbourne, immediately upon being informed of the mistake under which they laboured at Newgate, sent thither an authority to countermand the warrant with the Black Seal, signed 'Newman Knowlys.' Cox had just twenty-two hours previously been told, in the usual solemn way, to prepare for death; and as he had calculated largely and correctly upon the merciful character of the administration, he received the awful news as if he

JOB COX

had been struck to the earth with lightning. The mistake, upon being mentioned to him, it is unnecessary to state, gave full relief to his heart."

Mr Knowlys, who at this time filled the office of recorder, was immediately called upon to explain to the Common Hall of the City of London the circumstances which attended the very remarkable error into which he had fallen. When they had heard from him whatever excuse he had to urge, on Monday, 24th of June, they came to the following resolutions :—

" Resolved unanimously, that this Common Hall has learned, with feelings of the deepest horror and regret, that the life of Job Cox, a convict under sentence of death in Newgate, had well-nigh been sacrificed by the act of the Recorder of London in sending down a warrant for his execution, notwithstanding his Majesty in Privy Council had, in the gracious exercise of his Royal Prerogative of mercy, been pleased to commute his sentence for an inferior punishment.

" Resolved unanimously, that the mildest and most charitable construction which this Common Hall can put upon this conduct of the recorder is that it was the result of some mental infirmity incident to his advanced age; but contemplating with alarm the dreadful consequences which, though happily averted in the present instance, may possibly ensue from such an infirmity in that important public functionary, this Common Hall feels it an imperative duty to record the solemn expression of its opinion that the recorder ought forthwith to retire from an office the vitally important duties of which he is, from whatever cause, incompetent to discharge."

The recorder, who was present, was received with deep groans. The resolutions of the Common Hall were followed by a resolution of the court of aldermen announcing the receipt of a communication from the recorder that from his advanced age, ill-health and debility, consequent upon a late very severe fit of illness, he had felt himself bound, after serving the city for more than forty-seven years—upwards of thirty as common serjeant and recorder—to resign the office of recorder.

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PATRICK CARROLL

Executed 18th of May, 1835, for Murder. Origin of the Central Criminal Court

PATRICK CARROLL was a native of Ballihoy, in Ireland, and at the age of twenty-two he enlisted in the 7th Regiment of Fusiliers. He remained in this corps for a period of seven years, at the expiration of which time he enlisted in the Marines. The company to which he was attached was stationed at Woolwich; and the public-house which was commonly frequented by him was the Britannia, which was kept by a Mrs Browning, a widow. He formed an idea that his attentions were not disagreeable to Mrs Browning, and he repeatedly pressed her to marry him. It does not appear that she was altogether regardless of his suit; but Carroll having upon more than one occasion, while in a fit of intoxication, conducted himself in such a manner towards her as to call for her displeasure, she refused any longer to listen to his addresses.

On Sunday, the 26th of April, 1835, he went to the Britannia and found that Mrs Browning had invited some friends to tea, amongst whom he was not numbered. Some angry words ensued between them, and with difficulty he was ejected from the house. The next morning he returned, and demanded that he might be permitted to address a few words to Mrs Browning in private. This was declined; upon which he entered the bar where she was and, after having repeatedly struck her with his hand, at length drew his bayonet, with which he stabbed her.

On Friday, the 15th of May, the prisoner was tried at the Central Criminal Court,¹ held at the Old Bailey, for the

¹ As this is the first case in which allusion has been made to the trial of a prisoner at the court constituted as the Central Criminal Court, it may be well to mention the change in the law by which this alteration in the title of the "Old Bailey" was effected. The extreme inconvenience which attended the prosecuting of offenders for crimes committed in the immediate vicinity of the metropolis, but not within the district to which the jurisdiction of the Old Bailey extended, involving, as it did, among other evils, the necessity

ROBERT SALMON

murder, when a verdict of guilty was returned. Sentence of death was immediately passed, and the prisoner was executed on the following Monday.

ROBERT SALMON

Convicted of Manslaughter, in administering "Morison's Pills," and fined Two Hundred Pounds, 4th of April, 1836

AT the Central Criminal Court sessions which commenced on Monday, the 4th of April, 1836, Mr Robert Salmon, a medicine vendor in Farringdon Street, was indicted for the manslaughter of Mr John M'Kenzie, by administering to him certain large and excessive quantities of pills composed of gamboge, cream of tartar and other noxious and deleterious ingredients.

The deceased was the master of a vessel, and lived in the neighbourhood of Commercial Road. He was induced to take some of "Morison's Pills" as a purgative, upon the representations of a Mrs Lane, a woman who was employed by his wife as a sempstress, and who sold the Hygeian medicines. Subsequently Mr Salmon's aid was claimed, on account of his suffering from rheumatism in the knee, and he recommended increased and still-increasing doses, until at length the deceased became so ill that his life was placed in jeopardy. Medical aid was now called in, but it was too late, and death soon put an end to his sufferings. A post-mortem examination left no doubt that the medicine

of the attendance of witnesses at Maidstone, Chelmsford, or the other assize towns of the Home Circuit, had long been felt and complained of; and Parliament had been called upon to provide a remedy by which the then existing system might be improved. Under the superintending influence of Lord Brougham the Central Criminal Court Act was prepared and carried through both Houses of Parliament. Its provisions materially extended the district over which the judges sitting at the Old Bailey had jurisdiction. They rendered it necessary that there should be at least twelve sessions in the course of the year, thus rendering the jail delivery more frequent than formerly: and they also gave the judges of the court jurisdiction over offences committed on the high seas, for the trial of which hitherto a Special Admiralty Session had been held.

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prescribed by the prisoner had been the cause of this termination of the case, and the present indictment was in consequence preferred.

On the part of the defendant a great many persons were called from all parts of the kingdom, who stated that they had taken large quantities of these pills, with the very best results, as a means of cure for almost every species of malady to which the human frame was subject. One person stated that he had taken no fewer than twenty thousand of them in two years, and had found infinite relief from swallowing them in very large doses.

Mr Justice Patteson left the case to the jury, who had to decide upon the facts which had been proved; and after about half-an-hour's consideration they found a verdict of guilty, with a recommendation to mercy—upon the ground that the defendant was not the compounder, but only the vendor, of the medicines.

On the following Saturday, the 9th of April, the defendant was brought up to receive judgment. The learned judge sentenced him to pay a fine of two hundred pounds, and added: "I think it right to caution you that, in the event of your being again found guilty of conduct of a similar description, the character of your offence will be materially altered. I hope that the punishment which is now inflicted on you will deter others from rashly administering medicines, with the nature of which they are unacquainted, in large quantities, as the result may be fatal."

JOHN MINTER HART

*A Cheating Money-Lender, who was transported for Life,
16th of December, 1836, for forging a Bill of Exchange*

THE offence of which Minter Hart, who was well known as an advertising money-lender, was convicted was that of forgery. He was indicted at the Central Criminal Court on Thursday, the 16th of December, 1836, for feloniously forging and counterfeiting a bill of exchange for five hundred

JOHN MINTER HART

pounds, with intent to defraud the Rev. Charles Herbert Jenner.

In the previous July the Rev. Charles Herbert Jenner, of Wenvoe, near Cardiff, Glamorganshire, saw an advertisement in *The Morning Post* which offered to lend money, with a reference to Mr Blake, 44 Haymarket. Requiring money, he directed a letter to Mr Blake, and had an interview with the prisoner, who met him at Chislehurst, in Kent, where he resided. He told him he wanted two hundred pounds, on personal security, for twelve months. The prisoner agreed to let him have it at five per cent. on his bill. He met him the next day at the house of his father, Sir Herbert Jenner, in Chesterfield Street, when the prisoner produced a stamp, and at the same time showed what appeared to him to be a Bank of England cheque. The prisoner asked Mr Jenner to write across the stamp "Accepted—Charles Jenner"; but before he signed it he saw the prisoner write something at the left-hand corner; he did not notice what he wrote, but subsequently saw it was figures denoting £200. The prisoner then took away the stamp, and said he would return with the money in half-an-hour. By desire of the prisoner he made the bill payable at the Bank of England. On the bill being now produced, the figures "£500" appeared to have been substituted for those of "£200." He did not again see the prisoner, nor get any money, although he had received several letters. One Mr John William Edwards proved that he had received the bill in question from the prisoner, having agreed to purchase it at five shillings in the pound. It was then only a blank acceptance, but there was a stain at the corner. The prisoner said it was as he had received it. He said it had been obtained from Mr Jenner by a person named Elliott, and that he had offered it for sale to one Mr Pook, who would give only one hundred pounds for it. If the bill was paid, he, Edwards, was to give fifty pounds additional. The bargain was finally settled at a public-house at the corner of a court in Jermyn Street, and witness received the blank acceptance, and kept it in his possession

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for a week, when it was given to the prisoner to be drawn and endorsed. He returned it regularly drawn and endorsed with the name of "C. Taylor."

Other witnesses proved a fact which exhibited the boldness and ingenuity with which the prisoner had effected his object. It appeared, upon a chemical examination of the paper on which the bill was drawn, that that part of it on which, according to Mr Jenner's statement, the figures "£200" had been written, had been subjected to the action of a strong acid, the effect of which had been to remove all trace of the ink. The new figures, "£500," had then been written in their stead, and the bill had been put in circulation as a security for that amount.

An objection was taken to the indictment on the ground that the facts proved did not show that any forgery had been committed, although it was admitted that there had been a fraud; but the learned judge gave it as his opinion that the indictment was sustained, and the prisoner was found guilty.

His case subsequently formed the subject of discussion before the fifteen judges in the Court of Exchequer Chamber, when the conviction was declared to be good, and on Tuesday, the 7th of February, 1837, Hart was sentenced to be transported for life.

JAMES GREENACRE

*Executed at Newgate, 2nd of May, 1837, for murdering
and mutilating a Woman*

IN the year 1836 some dwellings, called the Canterbury Villas, situated in Edgware Road, at a distance of about a quarter of a mile from the spot at which the Regent's Canal emerges from under the pathway, were in progress of completion. On the 28th of December a man named Bond, a bricklayer, engaged upon the buildings, visited his place of work. About two o'clock in the afternoon he was proceeding in the direction towards Kilburn when his attention was attracted by a package enveloped in a coarse cloth

JAMES GREENACRE

or sack, which appeared to have been carefully placed behind a paving-stone which rested there, for the purpose of concealment. He removed the stone in order to obtain a more distinct view of the package, and was horrified to observe a pool of frozen blood. He called the superintendent of the works and another person to the place, and they found that the package consisted of a portion of the remains of a human body. The trunk only was there, the head and legs having been removed. It proved to be the body of a female, apparently about fifty years of age. The head had been severed from the trunk in an awkward manner, the bone of the neck having been partly sawn through and partly broken off; and the legs had been removed in a similar irregular way.

An inquest was held on the body on Saturday, the 31st of December, at the White Lion Inn, Edgware Road, when the jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder against some person or persons unknown."

Public excitement was soon afterwards raised to the very highest pitch by a notification being given of the finding of a human head in a place called the "Ben Jonson Lock" of the Regent's Canal, which runs through Stepney Fields. The exhumation of the body now took place, when the necessary comparison was made, and Mr Girdwood, surgeon of the district, at once declared that the head and the trunk were portions of the same frame.

Although some public satisfaction was afforded by this most singular event, still no clue whatever appeared to have yet been found to conduct the police to the murderer. The head was accordingly placed in spirits, and was preserved at Mr Girdwood's, where it remained open to the inspection of all persons who it was supposed would be able to afford any information upon the subject. The mystery which surrounded the case, however, seemed to become greater every day. The inquiries of the police for the remainder of the body were unsuccessful until the 2nd of February. On that day James Page, a labourer, was employed in cutting osiers in a bed belonging to Mr Tenpenny, in the neighbourhood of Cold Harbour Lane, Camberwell,

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when, as he stepped over a drain or ditch, he perceived a large bundle lying in it, covered with a piece of sacking, and partly immersed in the water. His curiosity prompted him to raise it, and he saw what appeared to be the toes of a human foot protruding from it. He became alarmed, and called for his fellow-workman, who was only a short distance off. When they opened the package they found it to contain two human legs. These, like the head, were transmitted to Mr Girdwood for examination, and proved to be portions of the frame which had been discovered in the Edgware Road.

On the 20th of March, Mr Gay, a broker, who resided in Goodge Street, Tottenham Court Road, applied to Mr Thornton, the churchwarden of the parish of Paddington, for permission to inspect such of the remains of the deceased woman as had been preserved above ground. He founded his application upon the fact of the sudden disappearance of his sister, whose name was Hannah Brown, and who had quitted her home on the afternoon preceding Christmas Day and had not since been seen or heard of. When Mr Gay saw the head, he at once declared his belief that it was that of his unfortunate relation. From the inquiries of the police it was elicited that the unfortunate woman had received with favour the advances of a man named James Greenacre, to whom she was about to be married; and that on Christmas Eve she had quitted her lodgings in Union Street, Middlesex Hospital, in order to accompany her intended husband to his house, in Carpenter's Buildings, Camberwell, preparatory to their union on the ensuing Monday. Greenacre was the person in whose company she had been last seen; and to him, therefore, the authorities naturally turned for information as to the manner in which they had parted, if they had parted at all, before her death. A warrant was granted by the magistrates of Marylebone police office for the apprehension of this man; and after considerable difficulty he was at length taken into custody on the 24th of March, 1837, at his lodgings at St Alban Place, Kennington Road, together with a woman named

JAMES GREENACRE

Sarah Gale, with whom he cohabited, and her infant child.

The apprehension of Greenacre and Gale took place under circumstances which tended to confirm the suspicions of their guilt of murder, and to give conclusive evidence of their perfect cognisance of the fact of the death of the deceased. Inspector Feltham was the person by whom this capture was effected ; and he took the prisoners into custody at a small house, No. 1 St Alban's Place, Kennington Road. Accompanied by a police constable of the L division, he proceeded to that house and found them in bed together. When he entered the room he informed them of the object of his visit. Greenacre at first denied all knowledge of any such person as Hannah Brown ; but subsequently, when questioned further, he admitted that he had been going to be married to her, although he did not then know what had become of her. The prisoners having dressed themselves, Greenacre declared that it was lucky the officer had come that night, as they were to sail the next day for America—a fact which appeared to be true, from the appearance of a number of boxes which stood in the apartment ready packed and corded for travelling. A minute examination of the contents of the trunks afforded highly important evidence. Many articles were found in them which were known to have belonged to Hannah Brown ; but besides these, some remnants of an old cotton dress were discovered, exactly corresponding in pattern and condition with the pieces in which the body had been wrapped when first discovered in Edgware Road.

On the 10th of April, 1837, the two prisoners were placed at the bar of the Central Criminal Court, and arraigned upon the indictment found against them. Greenacre was charged, as the principal, with the wilful murder of the deceased, and Gale was indicted for being an accessory thereto, in consorting, aiding and assisting her fellow-prisoner.

Lord Chief Justice Tindal, Mr Justice Coleridge and
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Mr Justice Coltman were the judges, and the court was crowded in every corner.

The Lord Chief Justice began to sum up at a quarter past six o'clock on the second day of the trial, and after an absence of a quarter of an hour the jury returned a verdict of guilty against both prisoners. Greenacre was sentenced to death, and the woman was ordered to be transported for the rest of her natural life. Greenacre was hanged on the 2nd of May, 1837.

FRANCIS LIONEL ELIOT, EDWARD DELVES BROUGHTON, JOHN YOUNG AND HENRY WEBBER

Indicted for a Murder committed in a Duel on Wimbledon Common on 22nd of August, 1838

ON the evening of Wednesday, the 22nd of August, 1838, a duel took place on Wimbledon Common, which, unhappily, was attended with fatal consequences. The principal parties were Mr Francis Lionel Eliot and Mr Charles Flower Mirfin; and they were accompanied, the former by Messrs Young and Webber, the latter by Broughton and another person, whose name, we believe, was never ascertained with certainty, and also by Dr Scott, who attended to render that professional aid which it was deemed possible might be required of him.

The circumstances which led to this duel were as follows:

During Epsom Races, 1838, both Mr Mirfin and Mr Eliot attended that far-famed sporting meeting. On Derby Day, as they were returning to town, Mr Eliot driving a phaeton and Mr Mirfin a gig, by some accident the two vehicles came in contact, and Mr Mirfin was overturned. In the fall some of his ribs were fractured. On his getting up, an altercation arose, and offensive language passed, which ended in Mr Eliot striking Mr Mirfin a blow on his already injured side, of which injury, however, it is due to say, Mr Eliot was ignorant. The pain at the moment

ELIOT, BROUGHTON, YOUNG AND WEBBER

was excessive, and Mr Mirfin had only a faint recollection that the name of the party with whom he had come in contact was Eliot. He had been unable to obtain his address, and therefore had no clue to his discovery, although he was extremely anxious to call him to account. Months rolled by, and on only one occasion, till Tuesday night, the 21st of August, had he obtained a transient view of Mr Eliot in a cigar-shop, but almost instantly lost sight of him. On Tuesday night, in company with two friends, he entered a saloon in Piccadilly, and while he was there he heard the name of Eliot mentioned. The name at once struck him, and on looking at the party by whom it was acknowledged he recognised him as the person whom he had so long sought, and from whom he had received a blow. He immediately requested one of his friends, Mr Broughton, to address Mr Eliot, and call the matter to his recollection. Mr Eliot admitted the fact, and offered to make an apology. It would seem, however, that neither party was in a situation to enter upon the subject then, and it was agreed that mutual friends should meet at the Opera Colonnade Hotel at twelve o'clock the next morning to discuss the matter. Mr Mirfin then proceeded to his residence, No. 2 Pleasant Place, West Square, Lambeth, where he retired to rest. At the time appointed the friends met, when an objection was made on the part of Mr Eliot to meet Mr Mirfin. A firm determination having been expressed, however, that such meeting must take place, on a second application to Mr Eliot he acceded to the proposition, and a hostile meeting was arranged for the same evening, on Wimbledon Common.

The individuals named accompanied the principals to the intended scene of action. A suitable spot having been selected, the parties proceeded to adjust the preliminaries. After some conversation between the parties, in which Mr Mirfin refused to consent to receive a verbal apology, the ground was measured—twelve paces—and the principals were placed in their positions, each provided with a pistol. At a concerted signal both fired, when the ball of Mr Eliot's pistol passed through Mr Mirfin's hat, whilst that of Mr

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Mirfin went harmlessly past his antagonist. Mr Mirfin then impatiently demanded another pistol, as he had previously declared he would face a dozen shots rather than submit to the insult he had received. The second fire quickly followed, when Mr Mirfin placed his hand on his side, and exclaimed, "He's hit me!" then staggered a few paces back and fell into the arms of Dr Scott and his second. The former soon ascertained that the wound was fatal, and in a moment the unfortunate man breathed his last. The ball had taken a transverse direction, and had passed through his heart.

On Saturday, the 25th of August, an inquest was held on the body of the deceased, which was continued by adjournment until the following Tuesday, when the jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against all the parties concerned as principal or seconds; the verdict as to the latter, however, only referred to them as being accessory to the offence.

At the ensuing session at the Central Criminal Court indictments were preferred against the various parties concerned: and it being understood that Mr Broughton would surrender to take his trial on Friday, the 21st of September, on that day the court was much crowded.

When Mr Broughton was called, however, he did not appear, and his absence was stated to be accounted for by the indisposition of Mr Clarkson, who had been retained as counsel on his behalf; but Messrs Webber and Young presented themselves, and declared themselves ready to take their trial. They were defended respectively by Mr Adolphus and Mr C. Phillips, while Mr Chambers conducted the case for the prosecution.

The whole of the facts were then again proved in evidence; and eloquent appeals having been made on behalf of the prisoners by their counsel, a great number of highly respectable witnesses were called, who gave them excellent characters for the general humanity of their disposition.

The jury, after some consideration, found the prisoners guilty, and at the same time declared their opinion that Dr Scott himself should have stood at the bar with them. Mr

FRANCIS HASTINGS MEDHURST

Justice Vaughan expressed himself to be of the same opinion, and sentence of death was then recorded against the prisoners.

They were instantly conveyed to the interior of Newgate, where they were placed, in obedience to the usual course, in the condemned cells. The application of their friends to the Crown, however, soon procured their liberation from this disagreeable confinement; but the sentence of death was only removed upon condition of their undergoing twelve months' imprisonment in the house of correction at Guildford, one month of which was to be passed in solitude.

On Friday, the 8th of February, 1839, Mr Broughton surrendered at the Old Bailey to take his trial, and pleaded guilty to the indictment. Sentence of death was recorded against him; but in this case, as in that of Webber and Young, the punishment was reduced to twelve months' imprisonment.

FRANCIS HASTINGS MEDHURST

*Convicted on 13th of April, 1839, of the Manslaughter
of a Schoolfellow*

MR MEDIHURST was a young man of highly respectable connections, and the offence of which he was found guilty was that of the manslaughter of a schoolfellow, Mr Joseph Alsop, at the Rectory House Academy, at Hayes, in Middlesex. This establishment was kept by the Rev. Mr Sturmer, a clergyman of the Established Church, and minister of the parish of Hayes.

Mr Alsop and Medhurst were his pupils, the latter being about twenty-two and the former twenty-one years of age. On Saturday, the 9th of March, 1839, Mr Sturmer was in his study with Mr Alsop, and a pupil named Bunney, when Medhurst entered the apartment and complained to Mr Sturmer that Dalison, another pupil, whom he designated as "a blackguard," had broken the glass of his watch. Mr Alsop, who had been the constant companion of Mr Dalison,

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indignant at the language applied to his friend, and perhaps irritated at former bickerings with Medhurst, exclaimed : " You are a liar and a blackguard for saying so ! " and there-upon Medhurst, who carried a stick in his hand, immediately struck him several severe blows over the head and arms. A scuffle ensued, in the course of which Alsop wrested the stick from his opponent, and they had separated to a distance of five or six feet when, just as Alsop was again advancing towards Medhurst with the stick upraised as if to strike him, the latter suddenly drew a clasp-knife from his pocket, opened it, and stabbed his antagonist in the belly. Surgical assistance was obtained, but it proved to be without avail, and after lingering a few days the unfortunate young man died.

It was not, however, until Friday, the 15th of March, that Medhurst was taken into custody ; and on the next day and the following Monday an inquest was held on the body of the deceased. A verdict of wilful murder was returned against Mr Medhurst, and he was conveyed to Newgate to await his trial upon that charge.

At the Central Criminal Court, on Saturday, the 13th of April, the prisoner was put to the bar to be tried upon the indictment which had been preferred against him, and he was found guilty of the minor offence of manslaughter.

Upon this conviction he was sentenced to three years' imprisonment in the house of correction.

Mr Medhurst was a young man of considerable expectations. It is not a little remarkable that his grandfather was also tried for murder, though he escaped the consequences of his act by proof being given of his insanity. His wife was the victim of his attack ; and her death was caused by a stab which she received from the hand of her husband in a moment of passion. For this alleged murder he was tried at the York Assizes in the year 1804, acquitted on the ground of his being insane.

WILLIAM JOHN MARCHANT

A Young Footman, who was hanged for murdering a Housemaid in a Magistrate's Drawing-Room

THE criminal in this case held the situation of footman to Mr Henry Edgell, a magistrate, resident at No. 21 Cadogan Place, Chelsea, and the victim of his crime was a young woman, named Elizabeth Paynton, who lived as under-housemaid in the same family.

On Friday, the 17th of May, 1839, Mr Edgell and his family quitted the house in Cadogan Place in their carriage, for the purpose of proceeding to Foot's Cray, in Kent, leaving Marchant, the deceased, the cook and the upper housemaid, at home. The two latter individuals also went out, and thus Marchant and the girl Paynton were left alone in the house. On their return they were unable to obtain admittance; and the coachman and upper-footman having come back from Foot's Cray, they went to the stables and procured their aid. Middleton, the coachman, scaled the garden wall, and with some difficulty burst open the back-kitchen door. He let in the other servants, and they all proceeded to examine the house. When they reached the drawing-room they saw the deceased lying on the floor, and it was at first supposed that she and Marchant were lying there together. This idea, however, was immediately dispelled by the discovery of a pool of blood near the head of the unfortunate young woman, whose throat was observed to be dreadfully cut. A razor lay by her side, which was evidently the weapon with which she had been killed. When it was ascertained that Marchant had absconded, suspicion at once attached to him.

On the Sunday after the murder, Marchant surrendered himself into the custody of a police officer at Hounslow, to whom he at once confessed the murder, without, however, assigning any reason for its commission. He appeared to be terrified at what he had done; and as he walked into town he frequently looked behind him, declaring that he fancied he heard the murdered woman at his back.

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On Friday, the 21st of June, the prisoner pleaded guilty to the indictment for the murder which had been found against him at the Central Criminal Court, and sentence of death was immediately passed upon him. On Monday, the 8th of July, the wretched culprit, who was only eighteen years old, was executed. He met his death with much firmness, and was apparently sincerely penitent.

FRANÇOIS BENJAMIN COURVOISIER

Executed, 6th of July, 1840, for murdering Lord William Russell while sleeping in his House in Norfolk Street, Park Lane

ON the morning of Wednesday, the 6th of May, 1840, Lord William Russell, an aged member of the illustrious house of Bedford, was discovered to have been murdered in his bed, at his house, No. 14 Norfolk Street, Park Lane. The deceased was the posthumous child of Francis, Marquis of Tavistock, eldest son of the fourth Duke of Bedford, by Lady Elizabeth Keppel, daughter of the second Earl of Albemarle. He was the third and youngest brother of the two late Dukes of Bedford, and uncle of the existing duke, who was the seventh of the family who had succeeded to the title. He was uncle also to the noble and highly talented Lord John Russell, who at the time of this most melancholy catastrophe held the office of Secretary of State for Colonial Affairs. By his marriage with Lady Charlotte Villiers, eldest daughter of the fourth Earl of Jersey, his lordship had seven children, several of whom were still alive and were married into other noble families; but at the time of his death he was a widower, his wife having died in the year 1806. His lordship was born in August, 1767, and was consequently in the seventy-third year of his age.

Lord William Russell resided, attended only by his servants, at the house in Norfolk Street, Park Lane. His household consisted of two female servants—a housemaid, Sarah Mancer, and a cook, Mary Hannell—his valet,

FRANÇOIS BENJAMIN COURVOISIER

François Benjamin Courvoisier, and a coachman and groom, all of whom lived in the house, with the exception of the two latter individuals. The house was small, and consisted of only two rooms on a floor. On the basement storey were the kitchen and the usual offices, and a room used by Courvoisier as a pantry. On the ground floor were two parlours, used as dining-rooms; on the first floor were the drawing-room and library; on the second floor were the bedroom and dressing-room of his lordship; and in the story above were the sleeping apartments of the servants. His lordship was a member of Brooks's Club, in St James's Street, and usually spent a considerable portion of the day there; but he generally dined at home, and then, having passed several hours in reading, commonly retired to rest at about twelve o'clock. The valet had been in his lordship's service for a period of only five weeks; and in the course of that time had been heard by his fellow-servants to express himself in terms of dislike to his master, whom he described as testy and dissatisfied, and to declare that if he only had his money he should soon return to Switzerland, of which country he was a native.

On the 5th of May his lordship rose at nine o'clock, and breakfasted at the usual hour; and at about noon he went out to go to Brooks's, in accordance with his usual habit. Before he quitted the house, however, he called his valet, and gave him several messages to deliver, amongst which was one to the coachman to prepare his carriage and be in readiness to take him home from his club at five o'clock. Upon Courvoisier going into the kitchen after this, he declared his fears that he should forget some of his errands; and when he recounted them he omitted that to the coachman. At half-past five his lordship returned home to dinner in a cab, and showed some dissatisfaction at the neglect of his servant; but it does not appear that he exhibited any such anger as could well excite a feeling of hatred or ill-will. Dinner was served at about seven o'clock; coffee was subsequently handed to his lordship, and at about nine o'clock he retired to his library. At this time the three

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house-servants only were at home. Some other persons had called in the course of the day, but they had all left ; and now Courvoisier, Sarah Mancer and Mary Hannell only were in the house. Hannell had been out, but upon her return Courvoisier admitted her, and it was observed that he locked and chained the street door after her entrance. Supper was, at about ten o'clock, prepared in the kitchen, and some beer was fetched by Courvoisier ; but he quitted the house and returned by way of the area, and the gate and kitchen door were fastened by Hannell upon his readmission. The means of access to the house from the street, therefore, were closed, and the only entrance from the back, on the basement storey, was through the pantry.

At about half-past ten the women-servants went to bed, leaving Courvoisier to attend upon his master, and it was not until half-past twelve o'clock that his lordship rang his bell for him to assist him in retiring to his apartment.

On the following morning, at about half-past six o'clock, Sarah Mancer, the housemaid, rose from her bed, and, having dressed herself, quitted her bedroom. As she passed the door of the valet's room she knocked, in order to awake him, and then proceeded downstairs. Upon reaching the lower floors of the house she found everything in such a state of confusion as to excite a suspicion in her mind that thieves had entered the house with a view to the commission of a robbery. She hurried through the drawing-room, the parlour and the passage on the ground floor, and there she found the furniture strewed about, the drawers and boxes open, and a bundle lying on the ground, as if ready packed up to be carried off, while the street door had been unfastened, and was only upon the latch. A momentary examination of these matters was sufficient to excite alarm in her mind, and, hurrying upstairs again, she repaired to the cook to inform her of what she had seen, by whose directions she at once proceeded to the apartment of the valet. Ten minutes had scarcely elapsed since she had previously knocked at his door, and half-an-hour was ordinarily occupied by him in dressing, but, to her surprise, she now found him

FRANÇOIS BENJAMIN COUVOISIER

dressed and ready to descend. Hastily she informed him of what she had witnessed below, and he accompanied her downstairs. Upon his seeing the state in which the lower part of the house appeared to be, he exclaimed : " Oh, God ! somebody has robbed us." Mancer now suggested the propriety of their ascertaining whether anything had occurred to his lordship, and they went together to his bedroom.

Immediately upon their entrance Courvoisier proceeded to the window to open the shutters, but Mancer went to the bedside, and saw the pillow saturated with blood, and his lordship lying in bed, dead, with his throat cut. The woman screamed and ran out of the room, then rushed from the house and obtained the aid of some neighbours and of the police, by whom a surgeon was called in. Upon the entrance of these persons, Courvoisier, whose conduct throughout the whole transaction had been of the most singular description, was found dreadfully agitated, leaning on the bed where the body of his master lay ; and although questions were asked him he made no answer, and took no part in the proceedings which succeeded. In a few minutes he appeared to recover, and at his suggestion an intimation of the occurrence was conveyed to the son of the deceased nobleman, who resided in Belgrave Square. When Courvoisier went downstairs he immediately took Sarah Mancer into his pantry, pointed to some marks of violence which were perceptible upon the door, which was open, and remarked : " It was here they entered."

The police now took possession of the house, and a minute examination of the premises was made, the result of which was a firm conviction in their minds that the murder had been perpetrated by an inmate of the house, and that a simulated robbery had been got up. A parcel was found to contain many articles of his lordship's property. A cloth cloak, which had been hanging up in the hall, was found rolled up, and within it were his lordship's gold opera-glass, his gold toothpick, a silver sugar-dredger, a pair of spectacles, a caddy-spoon, and a thimble belonging to the cook ; but it was remarked that the latter articles were of a nature which a thief would rather have put into his pocket

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than have packed up in so large a parcel ; and although the drawers of the sideboard in the parlour and of the writing-desk in the drawing-room were pulled open, nothing was found to have been extracted. In his lordship's bedroom a state of things presented itself which tended to confirm the suspicions of the police, and to supply a motive for the crime. His lordship had been in possession of a case containing ivory *rouleau* boxes, which were usually employed to hold gold coin. The boxes which belonged to his lordship would hold about five hundred sovereigns, and it had been remarked by Courvoisier that although he was entrusted with the keys of his master's drawers and trunks, his lordship would never permit him to go to this case. Upon examination by the police the *rouleau* case was found to have been opened, and the *rouleaux* having been searched, fruitlessly, for money, they had been placed on one side. The jewel-box and the note-case of the deceased had also been opened, and while from the former several articles of small value had been taken, from the latter a ten-pound note, known to have been in the possession of his lordship, had been carried off. A purse which contained gold had also disappeared. These circumstances induced a strong suspicion against Courvoisier, and his boxes were searched, but nothing was discovered which tended to fix upon him the guilt of the crime ; but it was nevertheless thought advisable that he should remain under surveillance.

On Friday, the 8th of May, a police officer examined the floor, the skirting-board and the sink, and behind the skirting-board he found five gold rings, the property of his lordship. In the same place were also found five pieces of gold coin and a piece of wax. Behind another part of the skirting-board was found a Waterloo medal, which was known to have been in the possession of his lordship, with a ribbon attached to it ; and there was also found the ten-pound note which has been mentioned before. The fact of the discovery of this note was a most important feature in the case. If it had been removed from the note-case, in which it had been placed, by any ordinary thief, it would undoubtedly have

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been carried off by him. Found as it was, however, concealed behind the skirting-board of this pantry, it was taken as almost conclusive of the guilt of the valet, because no hand but his could have placed it in that position; for it was proved that, from the moment of the discovery of the murder, he was placed under surveillance, and could not, therefore, have conveyed away anything from the house. A further search was subsequently made, and a split gold ring, on which his lordship had kept his keys, and which had been attached to his watch by a ribbon, was found; and then, on the evening of the next day, a locket was taken from Courvoisier's pocket; it contained a small portion of the hair of the nobleman's deceased lady. A short time before his murder he had missed this relic, to which he attached great value. Upon this the police thought fit to take Courvoisier into custody, and, after he had been taken off, still further discoveries were made. On the 11th of May a chased gold key was discovered; and on Wednesday, the 13th, it was determined to examine the sink in the pantry. A part of the sink was covered with lead, and when that portion had been removed in the course of the investigation, it occurred to the police officer that there was something extraordinary in the appearance of the lead. He turned it up, and there he found the watch which had been placed at the noble lord's bed-head on the night of the murder, but which, the next morning, was discovered to have been removed.

These were the material facts adduced in evidence against Courvoisier upon his various examinations before the magistrates; but strong as were the suspicions excited against him, it was felt that there was still good reason to believe that he would escape conviction. An experienced attorney, Mr Flower, was engaged to conduct his defence, and so strong a feeling had been excited in his behalf that a liberal subscription was raised among the foreign servants in London to defray the expenses of employing the necessary counsel to appear for him at his trial. Mr Hobler, an attorney, was engaged on behalf of the prosecution; and at length, on Thursday, the 18th of June, the trial of the

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prisoner came on at the Central Criminal Court, before Lord Chief Justice Tindal and Mr Baron Parke.

The court was then crowded, and amongst the noble and distinguished individuals present were the Duke of Sussex, the Countess of Charleville, Lady Burghersh, Lady Sondes, Lady A. Lennox, Lady Granville Somerset, Lady Julia Lockwood, Lady Bentinck; the Earls of Sheffield, Mansfield, Cavan, Clarendon, Lucan and Louth; Lords Rivers, Gardner and A. Lennox; M. Dedel, the Dutch ambassador; Marshal Saldanha, the Portuguese ambassador-extraordinary; Sir Gilbert Heathcote, Sir Stratford Canning, Sir W. Montagu, Colonel Fox, Lord Frederick Gordon, Hon. Mr Villiers, etc. As a proof that every part of the court was brought into requisition it may be mentioned that the prisoners' dock was filled with chairs, every one of which was occupied.

Mr Adolphus, Mr Bodkin and Mr Chambers appeared for the prosecution. The prisoner was defended by Mr C. Phillips and Mr Clarkson.

The prisoner, who was an alien, elected to be tried by a jury of Englishmen; and when the indictment was read he pleaded not guilty.

Evidence in proof of the circumstances which we have detailed was then produced, and the first day's proceedings had closed when new and important testimony, affording conclusive proof of the guilt of the prisoner, was discovered.

In the course of inquiries which had been made subsequent to the murder, some articles of plate were found to have been removed from the house of his lordship; but, after the minute examination of the house which took place, there was good reason to believe that this portion of the transaction had occurred long before, and not after, the murder. All the efforts of the police to discover this stolen property had proved ineffectual; and, although large rewards had been offered for its production, it was not until the evening of the first day's trial that it was brought forward. An intimation was then conveyed to Mr Hobler of the fact of its being in the possession of Madame Piolaine,

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the keeper of a French hotel in Leicester Place, Leicester Square; and when it was inspected by persons who were competent to speak to its identity, they at once most positively proved that it was the same which had been formerly in the possession of his lordship. The circumstance of this most extraordinary discovery was directly notified to the prisoner's attorney; and when Courvoisier was by him consulted as to the truth of the allegations made, he at once admitted his guilt.

At this stage of the proceedings it was felt that such a confession placed the advocates who had been employed on his behalf in a condition of the greatest difficulty. For them to have thrown up their briefs would have been at once to admit the uselessness of any efforts to save their client from an ignominious death—a duty to the performance of which they had pledged themselves; and it was therefore determined that they should continue their defence of the prisoner, although the line of conduct which it became proper to pursue was necessarily much altered by the discovery which had been made to them. The instructions which they had originally received went to the extent of calling upon them to endeavour to procure the implication of the female servants of his lordship, and of the police, who were to be charged as their companions and associates in crime in the murder of Lord Russell, and in a conspiracy to secure the conviction and execution of the valet; but although the former portion of this defence was of course deemed fit to be withdrawn, a considerable degree of abuse was heaped upon the police by Mr C. Phillips in his speech for the defence of the prisoner, in consequence of some improper conduct of which, he alleged, they had been guilty, tending to prejudice his case, and even going to the length of fabricating evidence to excite suspicion in the minds of the jury against him.

Mr C. Phillips addressed the jury at very great length on the part of the prisoner; he contended with great talent that the evidence was that of suspicion only. Lord Chief Justice Tindal having summed up, a verdict of guilty was returned,

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and the learned judge passed upon the prisoner the sentence of death.

On the following day the wretched man made a confession, in which he said :

" His lordship was very cross with me and told me I must quit his service. As I was coming upstairs from the kitchen I thought it was all up with me; my character was gone, and I thought it was the only way I could cover my faults by murdering him. This was the first moment of any idea of the sort entering my head. I went into the dining-room and took a knife from the sideboard. I do not remember whether it was a carving-knife or not. I then went upstairs. I opened his bedroom door and heard him snoring in his sleep; there was a rushlight in his room burning at this time. I went near the bed by the side of the window, and then I murdered him. He just moved his arm a little; he never spoke a word."

The execution was carried out at Newgate, on the 6th of July, 1840.

EDWARD OXFORD

Tried on 9th of July, 1840, for High Treason, in shooting at Queen Victoria while riding along Constitution Hill with Prince Albert, and found insane

THE trial of Edward Oxford took place at the Central Criminal Court, on Thursday, the 9th of July, 1840, before Lord Denman, Mr Baron Alderson and Mr Justice Patteson.

The indictment was in the following terms :—

Central Criminal Court, to wit.—The jurors for our lady the Queen, upon their oath present, that Edward Oxford, late of Westminster, in the county of Middlesex, labourer, being a subject of our lady the Queen, heretofore, to wit, on the 10th of June, in the year of our Lord 1840, within the jurisdiction of the said court, as a false traitor to our lady the Queen, maliciously and traitorously, with force and arms, etc., did compass, imagine, and intend to bring and

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put our said lady the Queen to death. And to fulfil, perfect, and bring to effect his most evil and wicked treason, and treasonable compassing and imagination aforesaid, he the said Edward Oxford, as such false traitor as aforesaid, to wit, on the said 10th day of June, in the year of our Lord 1840, aforesaid, and within the jurisdiction of the said court, with force and arms, maliciously and traitorously did shoot off and discharge a certain pistol, the same then and there being loaded with gunpowder and a certain bullet, and which pistol he the said Edward Oxford then and there had and held in one of his hands at the person of our said lady the Queen, with intent thereby and therewith maliciously and traitorously to shoot, assassinate, kill, and put to death our said lady the Queen. And further, to fulfil, perfect, and bring to effect his most evil and wicked treason and treasonable compassing and imagination aforesaid, he the said Edward Oxford, as such false traitor as aforesaid, afterwards, to wit, on the said 10th day of June, in the year of our Lord 1840, aforesaid, and within the jurisdiction of the said court, with force and arms, maliciously and traitorously did shoot off and discharge a certain other pistol, the same then and there being loaded with gunpowder and a certain bullet, and which pistol he, the said Edward Oxford, then and there had and held in one of his hands, at the person of our said lady the Queen, with intent thereby and therewith maliciously and traitorously to shoot, assassinate, kill, and put to death our said lady the Queen, and thereby then and there traitorously made a direct attempt against the life of our said lady the Queen, against the duty of the allegiance of him the said Edward Oxford, against the form of the statute in that case made and provided, and against the peace of our said lady the Queen, her crown, and dignity."

To this indictment the prisoner pleaded not guilty.

The prosecution was conducted by the Attorney-General, the Solicitor-General, Sir F. Pollock, Mr Adolphus, Mr Wightman and Mr Gurney; and Mr Sidney Taylor and Mr Bodkin appeared for the defence.

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The court was crowded to excess by persons of distinction during the two days occupied by the trial.

The Attorney-General opened the case to the jury, and in the course of his address he said :

"The prisoner at the bar is a young man, about eighteen or nineteen years of age. He was born, as I understand, at Birmingham. He came, when very young, to London, and was sent to school at Lambeth. He afterwards served in many public-houses, in the capacity of what is called a barman. . . . Gentlemen, it would appear that he formed and matured a plan to make an attempt on the life of the Sovereign. On the 4th of May, in the present year, when he was at his lodgings, he bought a pair of pistols from a person named Hayes, living in Blackfriars Road, for the sum of two pounds. He bought at the same time a powder-flask. It will appear by the evidence that he practised shooting in shooting-galleries. He was at a shooting-gallery in Leicester Square, at a gallery in the Strand, and at another at the west end of the town. On Wednesday, the 3rd of June, a week before the day laid in the indictment, he went into the shop of a person named Gray, with whom he had been at school, in Bridge Road, Lambeth, and bought half a hundred copper caps to be used for firing. He asked Gray at the same time where he could buy some bullets and threepenny-worth of gunpowder. He was told where the bullets could be had, and Gray sold him some gunpowder. On the evening of the 9th of June he showed a loaded pistol; and when asked what he meant to do with it, he refused to tell, but said he had been firing at a target. I now come, gentlemen, to the day in question, the 10th of June.

" You are probably aware that it is the custom of her Majesty Queen Victoria, since she has been united with Prince Albert, frequently to take an airing in the afternoon or evening in the parks without any military escort, and with the simplicity of private life. This custom was well known to all her loyal subjects, and indeed to the whole community. It will appear that on this day, Wednesday, about four o'clock, the prisoner went into the Park. He

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saw Prince Albert returning from Woolwich, and going to the Palace. The prisoner then went to Constitution Hill, and there remained, expecting the appearance of the Queen. About six o'clock the Queen, accompanied by her Royal Consort, left the Palace in a low open carriage, drawn by four horses, and with two outriders, who went before, but with no other attendants. Her Majesty was seated on the left side of the carriage, and Prince Albert on the right. The carriage was driven up Constitution Hill. About one hundred and twenty yards from the Palace—that is, about one-third of the distance between the Palace and the Triumphal Arch—there was the prisoner, Edward Oxford, watching their progress. He was on the right-hand side, near the iron railings which divide Constitution Hill from the Green Park. When he saw the carriage he turned round towards it; he drew a pistol from his breast, and then, as the carriage went on, discharged it. The providence of God averted the blow from her Majesty. The ball was heard to whiz by on the opposite side. In all probability her Majesty was quite unconscious at that moment that any attempt had been made upon her life. The carriage proceeded. The prisoner then looked back to see if anyone was near to perceive him; he drew another pistol from his breast, whether with his right hand or his left is uncertain, and aimed at her Majesty. It would appear that her Majesty saw him fire, because she stooped down. Again the providence of God interfered. The prisoner fired, the ball was heard to whiz on the other side—her Majesty escaped. The Queen immediately drove on, to allay the alarm which might be caused by news brought to her august parent with respect to an event so momentous. There was a considerable number of persons on the side of the Park between the road and the gardens of Buckingham Palace. Curiosity and loyalty had led many persons to that spot, in the expectation of her Majesty showing herself to her subjects. There was a man named Lowe, whom I shall call as a witness, who immediately rushed across, seized Oxford, and took the pistols from him. That person at first was believed to be

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the offender by the parties around, who said: ‘You confounded rascal! how dare you shoot at our Queen?’ On which Oxford said: ‘It was I.’ He was immediately taken into custody, and taken to the station-house, where he voluntarily put the question: ‘Is the Queen hurt?’ and on being told the Queen was not hurt, he was asked whether there were not bullets in the pistols, and he admitted at once that there were bullets.

“When he had been secured, and when it had been ascertained that his lodgings were, as he said, in West Place, West Square, a policeman was immediately dispatched to search them. The prisoner occupied a room on the first-pair back. The door of the room was open. The policeman found a box which undoubtedly belonged to the prisoner. That box was locked; but I shall show that he had in his pocket a key that fitted it, and that he acknowledged that it was his box, as were also the contents. The box was opened, and in it were found the following articles:—a sword and scabbard, two pistol-bags, some black crape, a powder-flask, three ounces of powder, a bullet-mould, five leaden bullets and some percussion caps marked, and which had been bought by the prisoner from Gray, his school-fellow. There was also found a pocket-book containing some papers. The box and its contents were brought to the station-house and shown to the prisoner, who stated that the papers belonged to him, and that he had meant to destroy them in the morning before he went out. These papers I will now read. The first bears no date: it is headed ‘Young England,’ and the rules and regulations are eleven in number.”

The learned gentleman then read the following paper:—

YOUNG ENGLAND *Rules and Regulations*

1. That every member shall be provided with a brace of pistols, a sword, a rifle, and a dagger. The two latter to be kept at the committee-room.

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2. That every member must, on entering, take the oath of allegiance to be true to the cause he has joined.
3. That every member must, on entering the house, give a signal to the sentry.
4. That every officer shall have a fictitious name. His right name and address to be kept with the secretary.
5. That every member shall, when he is ordered to meet, be armed with a brace of pistols (loaded) and a sword to repel any attack; and also be provided with a black crape cap, to cover his face with—his marks of distinction outside.
6. That whenever any member wishes to introduce any new member, he must give satisfactory accounts of him to their superiors, and from thence to the council.
7. Any member who can procure a hundred men shall be promoted to the rank of captain.
8. Any member holding communications with any country agents must instantly forward the intelligence to the secretary.
9. That whenever any member is ordered down the country or abroad, he must take various disguises with him (as the labourer, the mechanic, and the gentleman), all of which he can obtain at the committee-room.
10. That any member wishing to absent himself for more than one month must obtain leave from the commander-in-chief.
11. That no member will be allowed to speak during any debate, nor allowed to ask more than two questions.

All the printed rules to be kept at the committee-room.

LIST OF PRINCIPAL MEMBERS

Fictitious Names

<i>President</i> —	<i>Council</i> —	<i>Generals</i> —
Gowrie	Hanibal	Frederic
Justinian	Ernest	Augustus
Aloman	Augustin	Othoe
Coloman	Ethelred	Anthony
Kenneth	Ferdinand	
Godfrey	Nicholas	
	Gregory	

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LIST OF PRINCIPAL MEMBERS—*continued*

Captains—

Oxonian
Mildon
Louis
Amadeus

Lieutenants—

Hercules
Neptune
Mars
Albert

Marks of Distinction

Council—A large white cockade. *President*—A black bow.

General—Three red bows. *Captain*—Two red bows.

Lieutenant—One red bow.

A. W. SMITH, *Secretary*.

"There were in the same pocket-book three letters, purporting to be orders addressed by the same secretary, Smith, to Oxford: the first was as follows:—

YOUNG ENGLAND, May 16, 1839.

SIR,—Our commander-in-chief was very glad to find that you answered his questions in such a straightforward manner; you will be wanted to attend on the 21st of this month, as we expect one of the country agents in town on business of importance. Be sure and attend.

A. W. SMITH, *Secretary*.

P.S.—You must not take any notice to the boy, nor ask him any questions.

"Addressed—'Mr Oxford, at Mr Minton's, High Street, Marylebone.'

"The next letter ran thus:

YOUNG ENGLAND, Nov. 14, 1839.

SIR,—I am very glad to hear that you improve so much in your speeches. Your speech the last time you were here was beautiful. There was another one introduced last night by Lieutenant Mars, a fine, tall, gentlemanly-looking fellow, and it is said that he is a military officer, but his name has not yet transpired. Soon after he was introduced we were alarmed by a violent knocking at the door; in an instant

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our faces were covered, we cocked our pistols, and with drawn swords stood waiting to receive the enemy. While one stood over the fire with the papers, another stood with lighted torch to fire the house. We then sent the old woman to open the door, and it proved to be some little boys who knocked at the door and ran away.

A. W. SMITH, *Secretary.*

You must attend on Wednesday next.

“Addressed—‘Mr Oxford, at Mr Farr’s, Hat and Feathers, Goswell Street.’

“The last was in the following terms:—

YOUNG ENGLAND, April 3, 1840.

SIR,—You are requested to attend to-night, as there is an extraordinary meeting to be holden, in consequence of having received some communications of an important nature from Hanover. You must attend, and if your master will not give you leave, you must come in defiance of him.

A. W. SMITH, *Secretary.*

“Addressed—‘Mr Oxford, at Mr Robinson’s, Hog-in-the-Pound, Oxford Street.’

“Under these circumstances, gentlemen, if the prisoner is accountable for his acts, will you say whether there is any reasonable doubt of his guilt? It appears to me that if the prisoner was at the time accountable for his actions, there can be no doubt of his guilt. . . . I now come to the question whether the prisoner was accountable for his actions at the time when the offence was committed. And I will at once admit, under the law of England, that if he was then of unsound mind—if he was incapable of judging between right and wrong—if he was labouring under any delusion or insanity, so as not to be sensible of his crime, or conscious of the act which he committed—if at the time when that act was committed he was afflicted with insanity, he will be entitled to be acquitted on that ground. I have a duty to discharge to the Crown and to the public, and I must say

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that, so far as I have yet learned, there is no reason to believe that the prisoner at the time he committed this crime was in a state of mind which takes away his criminal responsibility for the deed."

The evidence for the prosecution was then gone through in corroboration of the statements of the learned Attorney-General, and Mr Sidney Taylor addressed the jury for the defence. Having argued upon the facts of the case proved by the witnesses for the prosecution, upon which he contended, first, that it was quite consistent that the pistols were not fired at the Queen, but with a view only to excite alarm; and secondly, that the pistols might not have been loaded with ball, both of which were necessary elements of the crime; he proceeded, thirdly, to the equally important issue of insanity. It was not the first time, unhappily, that the life of the Sovereign of this country had been attempted to be taken away; but he rejoiced to say, for the sake of our national character, that in no one instance had such an act been done by a person possessing a sane mind.

A vast body of evidence was then adduced with a view to supporting the defence of insanity which was set up. From it, it appeared that the grandfather of the prisoner was a person of colour, and that he was frequently, when intoxicated, guilty of acts of the wildest and most wanton description. Expressions were proved to have been occasionally used by him which indicated a mind bereft of reason, and he was stated to have suffered severely at one period of his life from a fever. With regard to the father of the prisoner, evidence of a similar tendency was adduced. His wife, the mother of the prisoner, was called, and she gave a dreadful detail of the injuries which he had inflicted upon her subsequently to her marriage with him, and of the brutal treatment to which he had subjected her. He had several times taken poison in her presence, and had otherwise been guilty of the most extraordinary and outrageous conduct. The prisoner, she proved, had been born in the year 1822, and throughout his life had exhibited symptoms of imbecility. He would frequently burst into tears, or into fits of laughing,

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without any assignable cause, and was in the habit of talking in a strain which exhibited a most anxious desire on his part to obtain celebrity in the world. He was always fond of the use of fire-arms, and frequently presented pistols at the head of his sister or his mother. Medical witnesses were also examined, who gave their decided opinion that the prisoner was in an unsound state of mind.

Lord Denman summed up the evidence, and at the end of the second day's trial the jury returned a verdict acquitting the prisoner, upon the ground of insanity.

He was ordered to be detained during her Majesty's pleasure, and was subsequently conveyed to Bedlam.

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Tried on 16th of February, 1841, at the Bar of the House of Lords, for an Assault committed in a Duel

ON Tuesday, the 16th of February, 1841, the Right Hon. the Earl of Cardigan was tried by his peers, at the bar of the House of Lords, for an assault with intent to murder, alleged to have been committed by him when fighting a duel with Mr Harvey Garnett Phipps Tuckett.

The Earl of Cardigan, in the year 1840, held the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel of the 11th Regiment of Hussars, of which his Royal Highness Prince Albert had recently received a commission as Colonel. It had been the object of the Earl of Cardigan to advance the discipline and general conduct of his regiment to such a state as to entitle it to be esteemed in the light in which it was held—that of a favourite regiment. The Earl had been appointed to the regiment in the year 1838, while it was serving in India, but in the spring of the ensuing year, the usual period of service abroad having expired, the 11th Hussars were ordered home, and soon after received the title of "Prince Albert's Own." While stationed at Brighton, in the course of the year 1840, some differences arose between the noble Earl and the officers under his command, which procured

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for the former a considerable degree of notoriety, and placed his character as the commander of a regiment in an unenviable position. Complaints to the War Office were the result of these misunderstandings, and the subject became matter of discussion in the various newspapers of the day. Amongst those journals which took a prominent part in these debates was *The Morning Chronicle*, and in the columns of that paper a series of letters appeared under the signature of "An Old Soldier," which eventually proved to be the contributions of Mr Tuckett, formerly a captain under the command of the Earl of Cardigan. Many of these letters undoubtedly contained matter highly offensive personally to the Earl of Cardigan, and when the noble Earl discovered their author he called upon him to afford him that satisfaction usually deemed to be due from one gentleman to another under circumstances of insult or any other provocation. A meeting took place at Wimbledon Common, on the 12th of September, 1840, the respective combatants being attended by seconds, the result of which was that at the second shot Captain Tuckett was wounded. The whole affair was witnessed by some persons resident in the neighbourhood, and the parties were all taken into custody, and eventually bound over to appear to answer any charge which might be preferred against them at the ensuing sessions at the Central Criminal Court.

A police constable was directed to institute a prosecution, and bills of indictment were laid before the grand jury against Captain Tuckett and Captain Wainewright, his second; and also against the Earl of Cardigan and Captain Douglas, who had attended him in the capacity of his friend. In the cases of the two first-named individuals the bill was ignored, but a true bill was returned against the Earl of Cardigan and Captain Douglas.

The extent of jurisdiction of the judges at the Old Bailey prevented them from trying the Earl of Cardigan, whose alleged offence the noble Earl was entitled to have inquired of by his peers, and the investigation of the case against the parties indicted was therefore postponed from session to

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session until the sitting of Parliament, the Court declining to enter upon the case of Captain Douglas until that of the principal to the offence alleged against him had first been disposed of. Parliament assembled on the 16th of January, 1841, and then, so soon as the forms of the House of Lords would admit, the bill of indictment was removed by certiorari, in order to be disposed of by their Lordships. The customary preliminary forms having been complied with, on the day above named—namely, Tuesday, the 16th of February—the trial took place.

The public had been made acquainted with the fact that the trial would not take place in Westminster Hall, and that the Painted Chamber, in which the Peers had met for parliamentary business since the destruction of the old House by fire, was under preparation for this solemn and imposing scene. The smallness of the apartment, and the general desire amongst the peeresses and the various members of the nobility and rank of the land to be present upon so important and interesting an occasion, rendered it necessary that very extensive alterations should be made to secure sufficient accommodation, and considerable ingenuity had been exercised in order to accomplish that object, every corner and nook from which a glimpse of the court could be snatched being provided with sittings. But the capacity of the building prevented the architect, with all his skill, from making the supply equal to the demand. The benches, galleries and floor were covered with crimson cloth, and the walls themselves with paper in which that colour was predominant, and the effect was to make the gorgeous robes of the peers and the splendid dresses of the peeresses stand out in dazzling relief.

At a quarter before eleven o'clock the Lords' Speaker (Lord Denman), having robed in his private room, entered the House. A procession was formed in the usual manner, his Lordship being preceded by the Purse-bearer with the purse, the serjeant with the mace, the Black Rod carrying the Lord High Steward's staff, and Garter carrying his sceptre.

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Garter and Black Rod having taken their places at the bar, the Lord Speaker proceeded to the woolsack, when, after he was seated, prayers were read by the Bishop of Lichfield.

The clerk-assistant of Parliament then proceeded to call over the Peers, beginning with the junior baron.

When this necessary ceremony was completed, the clerks of the Crown in Chancery and in the Queen's Bench jointly made three reverences, and the clerk of the Crown in Chancery, on his knee, delivered the commission to the Lord Speaker, who gave it to the clerk of the Crown in the Queen's Bench to read; then both clerks retired with like reverences to the table.

The serjeant-at-arms then made proclamation, and the Lord Speaker informed the Peers that her Majesty's commission was about to be read, and directed that all persons should rise and be uncovered while the commission was being read.

The commission appointing Lord Denman as Lord High Steward was then read, and Garter and Black Rod, having made their reverences, proceeded to the woolsack and took their places on the right of the Lord High Steward, and both holding the staff, presented it on their knees to his Grace.

His Grace rose and, having made reverence to the throne, took his seat in the chair of state provided for him on the uppermost step but one of the throne. Proclamation was then made for silence; when the Queen's writ of certiorari to remove the indictment, with the return thereof, and the record of the indictment were read by the clerk of the Crown in the Queen's Bench. The Lord High Steward then directed the serjeant-at-arms to make proclamation for the yeoman usher to bring the prisoner to the bar.

The Earl of Cardigan immediately entered the House and advanced to the bar, accompanied by the yeoman usher. He made three reverences, one to his Grace the Lord High Steward, and one to the peers on either side, who returned the salute. The ceremony of kneeling was dispensed with. The noble Earl, who was dressed in plain clothes, was then conducted within the bar, where he remained standing while

THE EARL OF CARDIGAN

the Lord High Steward acquainted him with the nature of the charge against him.

The prisoner was arraigned in the usual form, for firing at Harvey Garnett Phipps Tuckett, on the 12th of September, with intent to kill and murder him. The second count charged him with firing at the said Harvey Garnett Phipps Tuckett with intent to maim and disable him; and the third count varied the charge—with intent to do him some grievous bodily harm.

The clerk then asked : “ How say you, James Thomas, Earl of Cardigan, are you guilty or not ? ”

The Earl of Cardigan, in a firm voice, replied : “ Not guilty, my Lords.”

THE CLERK : How will you be tried, my lord ?

THE EARL OF CARDIGAN : By my peers.

The noble prisoner then took his seat on a stool within the bar, and his Grace the Lord High Steward removed to the table, preceded by Garter, Black Rod and the Purse-bearer, as before. When his Grace was seated, Black Rod took his seat on a stool at a corner of the table, on his Grace's right hand, holding the staff, Garter on a stool on Black Rod's right, and the serjeant at the lower end of the table on the same side.

Mr Waddington opened the pleadings ; he stated the nature of the offence as set out in the indictment, and added that the noble prisoner had, for his trial, put himself upon their Lordships, his peers.

The Attorney-General in a lengthy address explained the law and the facts of the case ; and the evidence of various persons who had witnessed the transaction of the duel was then produced ; but at the close of the case it was objected by Sir William Follett, on behalf of the Earl of Cardigan, that there was no evidence to show that the person against whom the shot was discharged was Mr Harvey Garnett Phipps Tuckett. The card of “ Mr Harvey Tuckett ” had been put in ; but this might have been quite another person from the individual pointed to by the indictment.

The Attorney-General was heard on the other side ; but,

NEWGATE CALENDAR

after a short deliberation, the Lord High Steward announced that the evidence which fixed the identity of the individual was insufficient. The Peers thereupon declared the noble defendant not guilty.

At the Central Criminal Court, on Wednesday, the 3rd of March, Captain Douglas was put upon his trial, before Mr Justice Williams, upon the indictment which had been found against him; but the jury, in the absence of positive evidence to identify Mr Tuckett, came to the same conclusion as that which had been arrived at by the House of Peers; and a verdict of acquittal was returned.

WILLIAM STEVENSON

Transported, 17th of March, 1841, for stealing a Bag of Gold from his Employers

THIE charge preferred against William Stevenson, and of which he was found guilty, was that of stealing from his employers, Messrs Mercer & Co., of the Maidstone Bank, a bag containing five hundred pounds in gold. For this offence he was tried at the Maidstone Spring Assizes, on the 17th of March, 1841, before Lord Denman, when the following remarkable facts were proved in evidence.

In the month of October, 1839, Mr Mercer wrote to his London agents, Messrs Masterman, the bankers, to remit to him fifteen hundred pounds in gold and five hundred pounds in silver, and that sum was accordingly placed in seven bags, one containing a thousand pounds in gold, another five hundred in gold, and five bags, each containing one hundred pounds in silver, and the whole were placed in a box, of which Messrs Masterman and Mercer had each a duplicate key, and the box was then committed to the care of Wallis, one of the Maidstone coachmen, to be conveyed to that place. The box was duly carried to Maidstone, and the prisoner, who acted as porter at Mr Mercer's bank, was sent to fetch it, and he brought the box to the bank about seven o'clock in the evening, and it was taken from him by

WILLIAM STEVENSON

Mr Mercer, jun., who unlocked it and took out the bags of coin, and, without examining them, placed them in the strong chest ; but he observed that at this time there were only six bags—namely, one large one, which he supposed contained the fifteen hundred pounds in gold, and the five bags of silver. The next morning, when the money was examined, it was found to be five hundred pounds short of the proper quantity of gold ; and on communication being made to Messrs Masterman, the loss of the second bag of gold was discovered.

No clue whatever at this time could be obtained as to the perpetrator of the robbery, and no suspicion was entertained of the prisoner, for he was retained in the prosecutors' service until the following month of January, when, for some act of misconduct, he was dismissed. Shortly after this the prisoner set up in business in the town as a grocer, but some other circumstances which came to the knowledge of the prosecutors induced a suspicion that he was the thief, and a search warrant was obtained and placed in the hands of Faucett, the superintendent of the Maidstone police, who proceeded to the prisoner's house, and, upon searching it, found a number of watches and time-pieces. When the prisoner was told by the officer what the nature of the charge was against him, he denied all knowledge of the robbery and told him he might search where he pleased. The officer then asked what money they had in the house, and about seven pounds in gold and silver were produced by the prisoner's wife. He asked whether they had not any more money, and the prisoner's wife went up to the bedroom with him and produced from between the bed and the mattress a bag containing forty-five pounds in sovereigns and half-sovereigns. He also found an IOU for ten pounds, signed by a person named Merston, who proved that the prisoner had lent him ten sovereigns upon it, and that he was paying him interest.

It was also proved that before the robbery the prisoner had been in receipt of only a pound a week, and that he was in very poor circumstances ; and that after he was

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discharged he had purchased two houses in Maidstone, for which he had paid three hundred and fifty pounds, and the payment was wholly in sovereigns and half-sovereigns. Further, it was shown that the prisoner had taken the grocer's shop and had paid a considerable sum for goodwill and stock-in-trade without having any means to do so, except, as was suggested, by that of having committed the robbery.

Witnesses were called for the defence for the purpose of showing that at the various elections in the Borough sums of money had been given to the prisoner, and it was elicited that a vote was always worth something, and one witness went so far as to say that he considered his vote worth fifteen pounds.

Several other witnesses were examined ; but although it was admitted that money had been given to the prisoner, in sums of eight pounds and ten pounds at different times, the witnesses said the money had been given only out of charity, and the evidence did not in the slightest degree show a probability that the prisoner could be lawfully in the possession of the money he had expended.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty, and his Lordship then ordered the prisoner to be transported for fourteen years.

JAMES INGLETT

Convicted, at the Age of Ninety-four, of the Manslaughter of a Woman, by carelessly administering Arsenic to her

THIS case excited considerable interest, as well on account of the peculiar circumstances by which it was surrounded as of the great age and high respectability of character of the accused. Inglett, at the time of his trial, had attained the age of ninety-four years. He was indicted at the Huntingdon Assizes, on the 19th of March, 1841, for feloniously killing and slaying one Elizabeth Harlett, by administering to her a quantity of arsenic.

The venerable person who stood charged with this offence had for many years carried on the business of farmer and

JAMES INGLETT

"cow-leech," and in the latter character was in the habit of administering medicines to various kinds of cattle. His great age and long acquaintance with the healing art had caused him to be regarded with much respect among the simple people of his neighbourhood, where his character had been unexceptionable. The deceased, who lived in the village of Houghton, near Huntingdon, took ill, during the year 1840, and the parish apothecary used all his art to restore her to health, but in vain. About Christmas the prisoner was called in to see her, and he immediately administered to her a dose of liquid medicine, which made her very sick, and caused her great suffering; but she got better after taking it. On the morning of Monday, the 11th of January, the prisoner called to see her. As soon as he had left the house, one of her sisters saw standing on the mantelpiece of the room in which the deceased was sitting a cup full of a similar medicine to that which he had before administered to her, and which had made her so sick and ill. When, three or four hours afterwards, this sister went again into the room, she found the deceased very unwell, and the cup standing empty on the table. The deceased got much worse towards night, and from that time till her death she was constantly sick, and suffered excruciating pain, with almost intolerable thirst. Early on Wednesday morning, the 13th of January, having taken some opium pills, she fell into a quiet doze, and soon afterwards death put an end to her sufferings. No suspicion was then entertained of her having died any other than a natural death, and in due time she was buried. When she had been ten days in the earth, however, various rumours got abroad respecting the cause of her death; and the county coroner directed the body to be exhumed, and a jury to be summoned. Two surgeons examined the disinterred body and found it in a generally healthy state, the organs being sound and free from disease, but the stomach and bowels were much inflamed; and the jury returned a verdict that she had died from the incautious and improper administration by the prisoner of "a certain noxious, inflammatory and dangerous thing, to the jurors

NEWGATE CALENDAR

unknown." The old man was therefore committed to prison for manslaughter.

At the time of the inquest the nature of the "thing" to which the verdict referred in terms so vague had not been ascertained; but the contents of the stomach of the deceased were preserved, and afterwards subjected to the usual tests of the presence of arsenic, which left no doubt that the deceased had taken that dreadful poison shortly before her death. It appeared, by the evidence of a chemist's shopman, that three or four months previously the prisoner had bought of him an ounce of arsenic; but as he was in the habit of using that drug in the manufacture of his cattle ointments the purchase excited no suspicion at the time. In order to show that it was the prisoner by whom or by whose direction the poison was administered, it was proved that on the morning of the death of the deceased he called at the house in which she had breathed her last, and a conversation ensued between the relatives of the unfortunate woman and himself, in which he almost in terms admitted that the fact was so. After some introductory matters a sister of the deceased told him it was his "stuff" that had killed her; to which he replied that could not be, for he had given her only half-a-grain, whereas he had given his own son, and others, a grain and more, without any harm. The sister rejoined: "Then it was too strong for her stomach"; to which the prisoner answered: "Like enough, poor thing!—for her stomach was almost gone." This, and his observation on the day of her funeral that he would not for twenty pounds have given her anything if he had known it, for he'd rather have done her good than harm, constituted the evidence on which the prosecution relied for proof of his having been the hand which administered, or the advice which directed, the arsenic. The family of the deceased spoke very favourably of his kindness and attention to her in her illness.

Lord Chief Justice Tindal told the jury that they would have first to satisfy themselves whether, in point of fact, the deceased had died from the taking of arsenic, and whether the prisoner had administered it. If they were satisfied of

JAMES INGLETT

those two facts, they would then have to say whether the prisoner had conducted himself so rashly and with such gross negligence as made him liable to an indictment for manslaughter. The question was whether, in reference to the nature of the remedy he applied, he acted with a due degree of care and caution, or whether he acted with rashness and gross negligence. If they were of opinion that he acted with gross negligence, and want of due and proper caution, he was in point of law guilty of the crime with which he was charged upon this indictment.

The jury consulted together for some time, and then returned a verdict of guilty.

The Lord Chief Justice in passing sentence observed that the ends of justice would be answered by the responsibility to which the prisoner had subjected himself being generally known. If any person presumed to administer medically a deadly poison, being grossly ignorant of its character and effects, or with rash negligence in its use, and death ensued, he would be liable to be convicted of the offence of manslaughter. Such a person might have no evil intention, and indeed might be actuated by a desire to alleviate the sufferings of a fellow-creature, but it behoved him to proceed with caution and care. At the time of life at which the prisoner had arrived it would be useless cruelty to inflict upon him a severe punishment; and as he had been already in jail six weeks, the Court would sentence him to a further imprisonment of fourteen days only.

The old man, who appeared to possess his mental and physical powers almost unimpaired, paid great attention to the case as it proceeded. His respectful demeanour, silvery hair and mild countenance secured for him considerable compassion in court, which was strongly increased by the sorrow depicted on his countenance for the deed of which he had been so unwittingly guilty.

APPENDIX

TRIAL BY BATTLE

THE "trial by battle" which was claimed in the case of Abraham Thornton is thus described :

When the privilege of *trial by battle* was claimed by the appellee, the judges had to consider whether, under the circumstances, he was entitled to the exercise of such privilege ; and his claim thereto having been admitted, they fixed a day and place for the combat, which was conducted with the following solemnities :—

A piece of ground was set out, of sixty feet square, enclosed with lists, and on one side was a court erected for the judges of the Court of Common Pleas, who attended there in their scarlet robes ; and also a bar for the learned serjeants-at-law. When the Court was assembled, proclamation was made for the parties, who were accordingly introduced into the area by the proper officers, each armed with a baton, or staff, of an ell long, tipped with horn, and bearing a four-cornered leather target for defence. The combatants were bare-headed and bare-footed, the appellee with his head shaved, the appellant as usual, but both dressed alike. The appellee pleaded not guilty, and threw down his glove, and declared he would defend the same by his body ; the appellant took up the glove, and replied that he was ready to make good the appeal body for body. And thereupon the appellee, taking the Bible in his right hand, and in his left the right hand of his antagonist, swore to this effect :

"Hear this, O man, whom I hold by the hand, who callest thyself [John], by the name of baptism, that I, who call myself [Thomas], by the name of baptism, did not feloniously murder thy father [William], by name, nor am anyway guilty of the said felony. So help me God."

To which the appellant replied, holding the Bible and his antagonist's hand, in the same manner as the other :

"Hear this, O man, whom I hold by the hand, who callest thyself [Thomas], by the name of baptism, that thou art perjured, because that thou feloniously didst murder my father, [William] by name. So help me God and the saints ; and this I will prove against thee by my body, as this Court shall award."

Next, an oath against sorcery and enchantment was taken by both the combatants in this or a similar form : "Hear this, ye justices, that I have this day neither ate, drank nor have upon me either bone, stone or grass ; nor any enchantment, sorcery or witchcraft, whereby the law of God may be abased, or the law of the devil exalted. So help me God and His saints."

APPENDIX

The battle was thus begun, and the combatants were bound to fight till the stars appeared in the evening.

If the appellee were so far vanquished that he could not or would not fight any longer, he was adjudged to be hanged immediately; and then, as well as if he were killed in battle, Providence was deemed to have determined in favour of the truth, and his blood was declared attainted. But if he killed the appellant, or could maintain the fight from sunrising till the stars appeared in the evening, he was acquitted. So also, if the appellant became recreant and pronounced the word "Craven," he lost his *liberam legem*, and became infamous; and the appellee recovered his damages and was for ever quit, not only of the appeal, but of all indictments likewise of the same offence. There were cases where the appellant might counterplead, and oust the appellee from his trial by battle: these were vehement presumption or sufficient proof that the appeal was true; or where the appellant was under fourteen or above sixty years of age, or was a woman or a priest, or a peer, or, lastly, a citizen of London, because the peaceful habits of the citizens were supposed to unfit them for battle.

It is almost needless to add that this remnant of barbarity has now ceased to exist, an Act of Parliament, the introduction of which was attributable to the above case, having removed it from the pages of the law-books by which our courts are governed.

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